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Inter-Arab Affairs

PLO Proposes Meeting With Syria 'Next Month'

LD2912210189 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 29 Dec 89

[Text] The most prominent event in the Arab arena is the initiative of reconciliation between Iraq and Syria and between the latter and the PLO.

Regarding the first subject, a press source in the UAE [United Arab Emirates] reported that Libya is currently mediating between Baghdad and Damascus and that the Jamahiriyah is planning, according to the same source, to host a summit meeting between Presidents Saddam Husayn and Hafiz al-Asad. The same source said, citing informed Arab sources, that the two messages sent by Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to his Iraqi and Syrian counterparts concerned the preparations underway for Tripoli to host that summit.

On the other hand, the PLO has proposed to Syria to hold a joint meeting in the middle of next month. Head of the PLO Information Department Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh has said that the Palestinian leadership is waiting for Syria's reply to the aforementioned proposal which was conveyed to the Syrian foreign minister, Faruq al-Shar', during the Euro-Arab dialogue in Paris last week.

Mubarak, Al-Asad, Al-Qadhdhafi To Meet Late Jan

JN3012165589 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 29 Dec 89 p 1

[Excerpt] Cairo, AL-QABAS—AL-QABAS has learned from informed sources at the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs that consultations are now being held to arrange for a tripartite summit bringing together Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, and Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

Despite the fact that these contacts have not so far yielded any results as to a date or venue for the summit, the same sources expect this summit will be held in late January, after the Egyptian-Syrian summit scheduled for early January in Damascus.

The tripartite summit will discuss economic and trade cooperation among the three states. The three leaders will also discuss moving the Arab League headquarters back to its original premises in Egypt.

AL-QABAS also learned that a Syrian Foreign Ministry delegation will arrive in Cairo within days to look for a building to house the Syrian Embassy in the Egyptian capital. [passage omitted]

Klibi Congratulates New Romanian Leaders

LD2912192789 Kuwait KUNA in English 1823 GMT 29 Dec 89

[Text] Tunis, Dec 29 (KUNA)—Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi has lauded the strong relations between the Arab peoples and the people of Romania and hoped that these ties would be bolstered in different sectors.

This has come in cables of congratulations to the president of the Romanian National Salvation Front, his deputy, the new Romanian prime minister, and the foreign minister.

In his cables, Klibi expressed regret for the victims of the recent violence in Romania that accompanied the revolt against former President Nicolae Ceausescu and voiced sympathy of the Arab League with the people of Romania. He said that "we are confident that the Romanian people would be able to overcome this ordeal which they are passing through and would realize their objectives and ambitions."

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Denies PLO Contacts With Weizman

NC3112134989 Paris AFP in English 1338 GMT 31 Dec 89

[Text] Baghdad, Dec 31 (AFP)—PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat denied Sunday that members of the Palestine Liberation Organisation had had contacts with Israeli Science and Research Minister 'Ezer Weizman.

His remarks came shortly after officials in Israel announced that Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir had sacked Mr. Weizman for having recently had "direct and indirect contacts" with PLO officials in capital cities in several parts of the world.

"There have been no contacts between the PLO and Weizman," Mr. 'Arafat told reporters here, although he acknowledged that PLO members tried two years ago to meet the Israeli official but failed.

The PLO chief said Mr. Shamir's decision to dismiss Mr. Weizman was "new proof that the Israeli cabinet is losing its balance."

Contacts between Israeli citizens and PLO members have been banned in Israel since 1986.

Abu-Sharif Criticizes Weizman's Dismissal

JN0101214090 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1855 GMT 1 Jan 90

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Jan (WAKH)—A Palestinian official has said that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's decision to dismiss Minister 'Ezer Weizman falls within the attempts to sabotage peace efforts and block arrangements for the proposed Palestinian-Israeli talks.

Bassam Abu-Sharif, media adviser to the president of the State of Palestine, has told correspondents of Arab and foreign news agencies that Shamir, more than anyone else, knows that the PLO has not had contacts with Weizman, neither now nor in the past.

Abu-Sharif said that Shamir is currently resisting the peace initiative by maneuvering to prevent the achievement of any progress toward peace. He also said that by taking such measures, the Israeli prime minister wants to buy time to face international pressure in support of the Palestine question.

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat yesterday denied that the PLO held contacts with Weizman in any way.

Abu-Sharif said Shamir's decision was "very funny." He also said that the Israeli prime minister knows more than anyone else that many meetings have taken place previously among different Israeli officials and PLO representatives inside and outside Israel, but he only reacted this time.

Abu-Sharif added that in the past the PLO had received messages from Israeli ministers via third parties, and these messages dealt with efforts to achieve peace. However, he declined to give more details on the parties that helped deliver these messages or those who sent them.

Abu-Sharif urged the U.S. Administration and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker to take decisive actions to continue to make arrangements for holding the dialogue that will pave the way for convening the international conference and ending the Israeli occupation.

Abu-Sharif Discusses Dialogue With Israel

JN3012155289 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 28 Dec 89 p 2

[By Mazin Mahmud al-Shawwa]

[Text] Bassam Abu-Sharif, political adviser to Yasir 'Arafat, president of the State of Palestine, has declared that the talks held by Arab Presidents Husni Mubarak and Yasir 'Arafat were conducted within the framework of joint Egyptian-Palestinian efforts to pave the way for the Middle East peace process and for first step in this process; namely, the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue proposed to be held in Cairo.

In a statement to AL-AKHBAR, Abu-Sharif asserted that during the talks the views of the Egyptian and Palestinian leaders were compatible and that these talks will reflect positively on the proposed international meetings aimed at preparing for the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue.

Abu-Sharif added: We have discussed the Israeli Government's position with the Egyptian leaders; so far, it is the only obstacle to launching the peace process. We also discussed the views and the means that guarantee keeping the doors open to the peace process, as well as shaping and firming up a positive Arab stance to counter Israel's rejection and intransigence.

In reply to a question on how far the dialogue with the United States has gone, Abu-Sharif said: Despite the slow pace of the dialogue with the United States, it is still constructive and continuing. There is no doubt that the dialogue has been fairly conducive to developing the U.S. view, the principle of exchanging land for peace, and the principle of the need to end Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza.

Abu-Sharif added: I expect the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue to begin shortly after the tripartite meeting of 'Abd-al-Majid, Baker, and Arens slated for next month in Washington in spite of Shamir's endeavors to hamper the beginning of the dialogue.

'Arafat's adviser said that the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue is a first step to getting the peace efforts out of the vicious circle that the Israeli Government is trying to put them in. The dialogue is also a first step in overcoming the obstacles the Israeli Government has laid down to hamper efforts toward a peaceful settlement and bring them to a standstill to maintain its occupation of Palestinian territory.

I asked: What about Jordanian-Palestinian ties?

Abu-Sharif replied: Our bonds with Jordan are deeply rooted and stem from our belonging to a single family.

'Arafat Delivers Annual Message in Baghdad

JN3112170589 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1610 GMT 31 Dec 89

[Text] Baghdad, 31 Dec (INA)—Yasir 'Arafat, president of the State of Palestine, has described the 26th year of the Palestinian revolution celebrated by the Palestinian people as a year of glory and victory.

Speaking to Arab and foreign media correspondents in Baghdad today, he said that next year will be a year of obstinate steadfastness and certain victory and a year for strengthening the people's authority, reinforcing national unity, and reaping the fruits of the revolution, the constant steadfastness, and the intifadah.

During the news conference, the annual message addressed to the Palestinian people by Yasir 'Arafat on the 25th anniversary of the establishment of Fatah was also distributed. In the message, Yasir 'Arafat reviewed the revolution's landmarks and its pan-Arab and humanitarian characteristics over the past 25 years. He said that these years were years of great national awakening, and that events have proved the credibility of our policy and the soundness of our struggle, and also have strengthened our political program.

'Arafat added that the Palestinian intifadah has clearly proved that our revolutionary project has reached the peak of success in developing from a vanguard movement into a movement for the people, and in moving our cause to the strategic offensive stage.

'Arafat also affirmed that the Palestinian people have become an example to be followed by all nations seeking a better life, freedom, and democracy. He stressed that

there is no peace except the Palestinian peace, no solution except the Palestinian solution, and no stability without a Palestinian state. He added that everyone should know that the PLO, the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative, cannot be overlooked.

'Arafat Says Americans Want To Suppress Intifadah

JN2912210089 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1922 GMT 29 Dec 89

[Text] Brothers: Brother leader Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has declared that the blessed intifadah initiated by our people is akin to a spectacular miracle defying description. This is because it is an expression of a people's determination to attain their rights, justice, and peace. The intifadah has become an ideal for all peoples striving for their freedom and national salvation. Brother leader Abu-'Ammar has noted that the United States is going all out to give the Israelis all the time they need to put down the intifadah. But we will not retreat and there will be no letup in the Palestinian struggle until the independent Palestinian state becomes a reality.

These statements were made during a meeting brother Abu-'Ammar called with representatives of popular Palestinian bodies and Palestinian revolution cadres, as well as a number of Arab and foreign newsmen, at the Palestinian Embassy in Baghdad yesterday. He began by analyzing current developments and international changes since the Malta summit between the American and USSR leaders, and their impact on the Palestinian cause. Abu-'Ammar warned of the consequences of the changes sweeping some socialist countries in Eastern Europe. He added: It behooves the Arab nation and the Palestinian revolution to relate to these changes with a new mentality. In the past everything was worked out when we and the leaders of socialist nations saw things eye to eye. Today, however, things are different. Abu-'Ammar pointed out that the Zionists are making suspicious moves in certain East European nations. He cited the example of recent Romanian events, about which he said that if it had not been for prompt Palestinian action, the Zionist movement would have caused us a great deal of damage.

On Lebanon, the leader president said: Since the fighting in East Beirut came to a halt, we have been the target of attacks on Lebanese soil. Crimes are being perpetrated against us in that arena. There are schemes to create cantons in Lebanon and evict Palestinians from Lebanon to the Azraq region in Jordan under the slogan that Jordan is the homeland of the Palestinians. But we will stand up to that and will carry on the intifadah—the best answer to this gruesome plot.

Abu-'Ammar praised the political efforts to settle the Palestinian cause. He said: After we launched the Palestinian initiative last year—the initiative that has won widespread, universal support—the United States began to make countermoves and thus our political battle got under way. Shamir then announced his election plan which Yitzhaq Rabin himself called an American rather than an Israeli enterprise. The United States has spurned all initiatives, sticking only to Shamir's election plan. For our part, we have said we support the idea of elections free from occupation and under international supervision, and have cited the Namibian example. The Americans, however, have tried through the election idea to quell the intifadah. We have come under considerable financial and media pressure. The Israelis and Americans intended that the elections bring in an alternative leadership to supplant the PLO and divert the attention of the people and thus bring about the demise of the intifadah. But all along we have been aware of their intentions and moved accordingly.

The brother leader, Abu-'Ammar, said in conclusion: The struggle is hard but we we will press on. We must be alert and vigilant. The Palestinian position is strong and solid and our international standing is good, but the Arab position is weak. We must work and move in all directions. More than anything else, we must make certain that the momentum of the intifadah is maintained, because it is the wellspring of Palestinian strength. The enthusiam of the Arab masses must be fired, because they are an indispensable source of sustenance and support for us.

PLO Denounces Attempts To Stop Peace Rally

JN2912170689 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 29 Dec 89

[Text] A PLO spokesman today denounced the Israeli occupation authorities' attempts to curb and silence the voice of peace to be raised by the international peace rally organized by scores of nongovernmental organizations from all parts of the world.

The spokesman pointed out that the occupation forces are harassing those who will participate in the rally and that the occupation authorities have decided to prevent Palestinian citizens in the Jerusalem area from participating in the rally which will take place in support of the intifadah and the Palestinian people's rights.

The spokesman stressed that the masses of the Palestinian people, who welcomed the partisans of peace and freedom coming from various world countries, will challenge these authorities and will foil occupation attempts to abort the rally.

Egypt

Opposition Leaders Comment on Syrian Relations

NC2912172089 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1450 GMT 29 Dec 89

[Text] Cairo, 29 Dec (MENA)—Egyptian opposition parties have praised the restoration of Egyptian-Syrian relations. Dr Hilmi Murad, deputy leader of the Socialist Labor Party, said that the restoration of diplomatic relations between Egypt and Syria has completed the links of Arab unity at a time when all Arab states are required to display solidarity to confront the new external economic forces.

Murad told MENA that there is great hope that the restoration of these relations will eliminate the differences between some Arab states and purify the atmosphere between them. He hoped that there will be coordination between the economic groups that have surfaced within the framework of the Arab League so that the Arab world will enjoy economic integration and stability.

Dr Mustafa Murad, leader of the Socialist Liberal Party, said that the restoration of diplomatic relations between Egypt and Syria is a historic turning point in Arab relations. Egypt and Syria represent the heart of the Arab world. Whenever Egypt and Syria joined hands in the past, victory followed for the Arabs on all Arab and international levels. Murad said that the restoration of Egyptian-Syrian relations means a lot for the two fraternal countries, politically, economically, and from the point of view of security.

Ahmad al-Sabahi, leader of the al-Ummah Party, said that the restoration of Egyptian-Syrian ties forces us to review history, which shows that the Arabs were victorious when the two countries were allies, from the Middle Ages and the days of Saladin to the October 1973 victory.

He added that the al-Ummah Party hopes that amity and brotherhood will be restored between the two Arab countries Syria and Iraq so that the unity of the Arab ranks will be complete and so that Lebanon may restore its territorial unity. He expressed the hope that this will be achieved with the efforts of Presidents Husni Mubarak and Hafiz al-Asad, God willing.

Dr Rif'at al-Sa'id, assistant secretary general of the National Progressive Unionist Grouping [NPUG] party, said that the NPUG supports every attempt to marhsal the Arab ranks and views any such step as positive. He said he hopes this step will lead to a unified Arab stand to achieve the aspirations of the Arab people. On the pan-Arab level, these aspirations are represented by the finding of a just solution for the Palestinian issue and the establishment of a Palestinian state under the leadership of the PLO. The local level in each Arab country is represented by more democracy and more guarantees of human freedom and rights.

Yasin Siraj al-Din, People's Assembly member and assistant secretary general of the New Wafd Party, said that the restoration of Egyptian-Syrian relations was everyone's wish and that it came on the heels of the rapprochement and the restoration of good relations between Egypt and Libya. He said the New Wafd Party considers these steps as a coronation of President Mubarak's diplomatic and pan-Arab efforts this year.

Siraj al-Din expressed the hope that President Mubarak will succeed in eliminating the misunderstanding between Syria and Iraq. He indicated that President Mubarak, with his calmness, influence, and quiet policy, is able to achieve this. The Arab countries will then be able to work within the framework of a comprehensive Arab unity, which they need desperately, in order to confront the momentous developments in Europe and in the world at large.

Israel's Weizman Cited

NC2912164189 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1553 GMT 29 Dec 89

[Text] Cairo, 29 Dec (MENA)—MENA has learned that 'Ezer Weizman, Israeli scientific research minister, has told the Israeli Cabinet that the resumption of diplomatic relations between Egypt and Syria will have positive effects on the Middle East peace process.

MENA has also learned that Weizman congratulated Egyptian Ambassador to Israel Muhammad Basyuni on the resumption of ties between the two Arab countries.

Cairo Papers View Accord

NC2912114289 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0630 GMT 29 Dec 89

[Text] Cairo, 29 Dec (MENA)—The Cairo newspapers affirm that the return of full rapport between Cairo and Damascus as well as the resumption of normal relations between the two countries will give greater strength and vigor to international Arab solidarity.

The papers write in their commentaries published today that this step follows careful and calculated exchanges at the highest level, thus closing the file of splits and boycotts for good and forging ahead with a spirit of hope toward meeting the demands of the two peoples and their aspirations for the welfare of the Arab nation.

Under the title of "The Year of Clearing the Arab Atmosphere," AL-AHRAM notes that all signs confirm that efforts to clear the Arab atmosphere have gone a long way. The paper adds that that the circumstances are now ripe for the start of a new era of joint Arab action that is compatible with the magnitude of the serious challenges created by the international changes that cannot be ignored.

The paper indicates that 1989 was marked by a series of positive steps invigorating the march of accord, foremost of which was Egypt's return to occupy its permanent seat

at the Arab League and its participation in the Casablanca summit with a ranking delegation led by President Husni Mubarak. Egyptian-Libyan reconciliation then followed, as demonstrated by the Matruh and Tobruq summits between Mubarak and al-Qadhdhafi. These summits, the paper adds, were followed by a third one in Sirte, which served as the signal for the actual implementation of the integration and cooperation agreements between the two countries in various fields.

AL-AHRAM pays tribute to President Mubarak's wisdom and to the prudence of Egyptian diplomacy, which both played a major and prominent role in preparing for all these steps after it had become evident to everybody that Egypt's activities attest to its fundamental eagerness to see the inter-Arab ties governed by unity of ranks and reconciliation. The paper writes that now that we are bidding farewell to 1989, which rightly deserved to be called the year of clearing the Arab atmosphere, we are confident that the Arab world is capable, God willing, of ending this decade by removing the remaining signs of division and rift and turning a new leaf that could put the Arab nation in its appropriate place on the world stage, in line with its immense human and material capabilites.

The paper adds that what was accomplished in 1989 will generate enormous momentum for achieving the remaining goals to which the Arabs aspire; most importantly to establish peace, security, and stability in Lebanon, to reconcile Iraq and Syria, and to restore the coordination and dialogue between the PLO and Syria.

Concluding its commentary, the paper says that if the Arab nation succeeds in achieving these goals in 1990, it will truly prove its ability to live up to the challenge created by the recent world changes.

For its part, AL-AKHBAR emphasizes that this positive step to bolster Arab solidarity has come at the suitable time, when comprehensive coordination between all the Arab states is needed in preparation for and in anticipation of the international challenges coming which require a unified Arab strategy. The paper stresses the need for all Arab countries to contribute to this strategy with all their resources, energy, and potential and notes that what the Arabs lack are sound preparations and teamwork to turn this potential into effective capabilities enabling the Arab nation to assert itself and to face whatever surprises it could come across in both the near and distant future.

The paper notes that the resumption of relations with Damascus has a special flavor, in view of the close fraternal ties that have brought the two states together throughout the course of history and their cooperation in standing up to the dangers that threatened the Arab nation.

AL-JUMHURIYAH writes that while the Egyptian-Syrian decision to resume diplomatic relations is another important achievement in President Mubarak's Arab policy, at the same time it gives the Arab nation strength in its battles to achieve its aspirations. The paper notes that the joint communique issued in the two countries in this respect affirm a number of historical and cultural facts, including the joint struggle by the two countries throughout the course of Arab history and their awareness of the consequences resulting from the current international developments and their expected effects on the Arab world.

The paper notes the Arab public opinion's overwhelming welcome of the resumption of the Egpytian-Syrian relations. Only the enemies of the Arabs stand to lose from such a move, because they find in the inter-Arab rift their main reason for continuing their schemes to undermine Arab aspirations for security and stability.

In conclusion, the paper hopes that the future will witness a giant step in the field of Egyptian-Syrian joint action and that the joint committees proposed will join their sister committees so that the Arab world might become a single group in an age of the giant groups.

Commentary on Arab Unity

NC2812162889 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1240 GMT 28 Dec 89

[Muhammad Sharaf commentary: "It Is a Time for Arab Work and Action, Not a Time for False and Misleading Slogans"]

[Text] Those who know and appreciate the real and permanent interests of the Arab nation and those who sincerely, unselfishly, and with historical insight desire the welfare of this nation will undoubtedly be greatly satisfied and pleased with the restoration of relations between the two sisters Egypt and Syria. In the same way, they were satisfied and pleased with the restoration of relations between Egypt and sister Libya and, before that, between Egypt and all the fraternal Arab states.

The question is not only one of emotions, sentiments, and genuine and deep-rooted national ties. Above all it is a question of vital interests and benefits for the Arab people, who aspire to see their posterity enjoy a secure and dignified life. The noble Arab nation has always expressed these sentiments spontaneously and in a civilized way on every occasion, in good times and bad.

Needless to say, for a long time the supreme pan-Arab issues have, for several reasons, been in a state of suspension, and they still are. Some of these reasons are related to the lack of clarity of the Arab vision and some are related to external factors caused by the enemies of this nation. It is difficult to confront these supreme pan-Arab issues successfully while the Arab nation is divided and dispersed.

The Palestinian issue, the Lebanese crisis, the establishment of permanent peace in the Gulf, and certain temporary Arab differences are among these issues and problems which the Arab states and nation must unitedly and collectively settle. Moreover, the issues which

the future will bring and the current sweeping international developments which are turning the world upside down and preparing it for the birth of a new age of human history need, above all, full unity of will and Arab action. This is necessary in order to face these developments and keep pace with this new age of history and human civilization.

Undoubtedly, the present and future issues and problems of the Arab nation are closely linked to international issues and problems, and cannot be solved in isolation from them. However, the unity of Arab will and action are the essential and primary element in the promotion of these supreme Arab issues.

If we have to insist on something in this respect and at this juncture of Arab and human history, we insist that this period should be the time of Arab work and action. We must leave behind forever the period of slogans, auctioneering, narrow outlooks, and personal whims and rise to the level of our responsibility in full view of the whole world.

Like all other peoples, without exception, our people have vital interests. These interests lie in the good use of available resources and moral capabilities, in the development of these resources and capabilities by all available means, and in the achievement of optimum coordination and integration among them. The road is not easy and smooth but difficult and long. It requires all efforts and resources. The Arab nation has lagged behind but it has not stopped and has not lost its ability to create and innovate. Vivid proof of this is its ability to regroup its ranks after a division which delayed its march and exposed it to grave dangers.

Our nation must dedicate all its efforts to developing its material and moral resources. It needs security, peace, and stability on the basis of justice and equality with other nations. No one will grant it this; it must achieve it alone. With action, work, and willpower we must prove to the world that we deserve a dignified place under the sun.

Mubarak Sends 'Clear,' 'Frank' Message to Syria

JN2812150889 Cairo UKTUBAR in Arabic
24 Dec 89 p 10

[Text] UKTUBAR has learned that the message that Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif conveyed to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad from President Husni Mubarak was clear and frank in explaining Egypt's policy toward several issues, as well as its strategy of establishing relations with all world states on the basis of mutual respect and firm stances.

Regarding its policy toward Lebanon, Egypt pointed out that it supports the Lebanese legitimacy which elected President Ilyas al-Hirawi to safeguard Lebanon's unity. Egypt also stressed the need for the withdrawal of foreign forces from all Lebanese territories.

UKTUBAR also learned that Egypt welcomes any Syrian efforts to promote its relations with Egypt although the two countries have not discussed an official announcement on the resumption of relations.

Columnist Supports U.S. Action Against Noriega

JN2812173389 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic
26 Dec 89 p 17

["Diary" column by Ahmad Baha' al-Din]

[Text] I know that no international law or international norm allows the United States to attack a small state such as Panama with the objective of changing its government and president. This only is the business of the people themselves. I certainly believe in the firmness of these general and basic principles.

I also know full well that all the newspapers in the world and almost all governments attack President Bush and the U.S. Administration for invading the small Republic of Panama, especially as the United States is a superpower.

However, since I have studied law and read the philosophy of law, I believe that law has its forms, procedures, and rules. Moreover, law has a substance and an essence. I believe that if law departs from its essence it becomes a law that serves the form and not the substance. The expression "law is a donkey," which is a common saying, means that law must be applied blindly.

But what can be done in a case like that of the military dictator Noriega? We are not here to discuss a political, ideological, or even a military case, but to discuss a case of a president of a state who officially deals in heroin, cocaine, and all narcotics, and openly protects drug dealers. These poisons are basically smuggled to the United States with profits beyond imagination.

The post of president of the state is a very serious one in all world states. This is because the overt and covert powers and the immunity and guarantees he has enable him to do anything that one cannot even think of, either evil or good. If a president, who enjoys all these powers, becomes the biggest drug dealer, then punishing and getting rid of him becomes the duty of all presidents in the world, first because of the extreme harms he causes, and second because he seriously threatens the reputation of all state leaders, especially if his crime is the very despicable one of drug trafficking. If his coerced people cannot get rid of him, then let anyone who is capable of doing so get rid of him or save the world from his evils.

For this reason I support the U.S. military intervention against Noriega, but not against Panama. Noriega must be arrested and tried like any common criminal. If local laws cannot reach heads of state, then international law and world public opinion should try a president of a state who uses all his powers to deal in drugs, the most miserable trade of this age.

Soviet Denies Guarantee to Israel on Syrian Arms

JN2712161289 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic
25 Dec 89 p 2

[Text] Eduard Nalbandyan [name as published], director of information at the Soviet Embassy in Cairo, has asserted that no Soviet agreement or guarantees were given Israel on the suspension of any new deals to ship modern arms to Syria and some other countries. He described reports attributed to U.S. State Department sources and published in a Kuwaiti newspaper concerning these guarantees as a blatant fabrication that deliberately distorts the significance of contacts between the representatives of the USSR and official Israeli figures.

The embassy official stated that the Soviet Union is exerting intensive efforts to promote the settlement of regional conflicts on the basis of mutual interests. He affirmed that despite the absence of diplomatic relations between Moscow and Tel Aviv, the Soviet side believes in the need to conduct practical contacts on various levels with Israel. This is because Israel is one of the parties directly concerned with a peaceful settlement in the Middle East. He added that these contacts are intended to promote a just settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict and convince the Israeli Government of the need to adopt a stand that is in line with the realistic and constructive policy of the PLO and Arab countries.

He stated that attempts to attach a different meaning to these Soviet-Israeli contacts will only strengthen the positions of those who do not care about genuine peace in the Middle East.

Industrial Contract Signed With USSR

NC2712180589 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1355 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Text] Cairo, 27 Dec (MENA)—Industry Minister Eng Muhammad 'Abd-al-Wahhab has attended the signing of an industrial contract between Egypt and the USSR that provides for Soviet assistance in implementing the various stages of the Abu-Turtur phosphates project in the New Valley and supplying it with the necessary equipment.

Eng 'Abd-al-Mun'im Isma'il, chairman of the executive apparatus of the industrial and mining complexes, signed the contract on behalf of Egypt. Nazarov, chairman of the Soviet Takmash Industrial Import Authority, signed for the USSR. Soviet Ambassador Gennadiy Zhuravlev also attended the signing ceremony.

Following the signing ceremony, the industry minister stated that investments in this project are estimated at 673 million pounds. This is in addition to the 60 million pounds which were previously spent on the research phases of the project. An experimental mine had been opened, studies on concentrating raw phosphate had been carried out, houses and workshops had been built, and wells had been dug.

The industry minister pointed out that foreign investments in infrastructure projects alone amount to 476 million pounds. He said this includes 22 million pounds which have already been spent on several installations, including the Safajah-Qina railway, electric cable networks, and similar projects.

Eng Muhammad 'Abd-al-Wahhab said that the contract which was signed today is the first of a series which will be signed in order to implement the project according to the general agreement signed with the USSR in November 1989. He said all phases of the project will be implemented between 1990 and 1995.

He added that the phases of implementation include the importation of some tunnel excavation machinery next June. He said that in 1991 and 1992 the components of the first raw material concentration unit will be imported and installed.

He explained that in 1993 the first mining unit will be operated at an annual capacity of 1 million tons, in 1994 the first raw material concentration unit will be operated at an annual capacity of 600,000 tons, and in 1995 the remaining units will be installed and operated at an annual capacity of 2.2 million tons of phosphate.

'Abd-al-Majid on Peace Process, Nuclear Arms

NC2812204289 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1935 GMT 28 Dec 89

[Excerpt] Alexandria, 28 Dec (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has stressed the need for an Israeli stand similar to the peaceful and positive Palestinian course so that an impetus may be given to the peace process. He said that Egypt is seeking to prepare the right atmosphere for a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue on the substance of a peaceful settlement.

In a speech he delivered tonight during his meeting with Alexandria University staff, Dr 'Abd-al-Majid said that the Palestinian side has recently succeeded in developing its stand in a positive manner. He noted that this stand was reflected in the Palestine National Council resolutions passed in Algiers in November 1988, the peace initiative which Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat proposed from the UN rostrum in Geneva, and the acceptance in principle of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's proposals. He stressed that a lasting peace must be comprehensive and just, and must include all parties, restore rights to their true owners, and allow all the peoples of the region to enjoy security and stability.

Dr 'Abd-al-Majid went on to say that, on the basis of its overall outlook on peace, Egypt is seeking to keep the Middle East region out of the nuclear arms race. He stressed that Egypt "cannot agree to live with a sword held over its head by any regional party."

At this point he noted the need for all the parties concerned to take the necessary practical and swift

measures to implement the proposal to establish a nuclear-free zone in the Middle East, jointly to desist from producing, obtaining, or possessing nuclear weapons or from allowing a third party to deploy nuclear weapons on their territories, and to agree to have all their nuclear facilities subjected to the guarantees of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Dr 'Abd-al-Majid said that Egyptian diplomacy has set itself three main objectives: peace, stability, and development. He stressed that Egypt cannot live in isolation even if it wants to, because of its geographical position and historical role. He added that the achievement of stability in the Middle East requires the attainment of a lasting and just peace that serves the interests of all parties and achieves a balance between them. He noted that Egypt's diplomacy focuses on the country's role as a factor for stability and moderation in the Middle East and on the importance of continuing support for peaceful efforts. He added that Egyptian diplomacy is at the same time pursuing what is termed "development diplomacy" through the constant endeavor to fulfill society's needs for aid, technology, and investments. He stressed that the development process in the country cannot succeed completely if the appropriate international conditions are not present and if advantage is not taken of the available regional resources and opportunities. He called for reviving the North-South dialogue in order to improve world economic conditions and solve the debts problem that is affecting the Third World countries. [passage omitted]

Malaysian Defense Minister Arrives for Visit

NC2912143589 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1337 GMT 29 Dec 89

[Text] Cairo, 29 Dec (MENA)—Malaysian Defense Minister Tengku Ahmad Rithauddeen arrived in Cairo this afternoon on a 5-day visit to Egypt. He expressed his pleasure at this visit to Egypt, saying that he considers it to be his own country. He noted that he will meet with General Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib, minister of defense and war production, and a number of other Egyptian officials.

Mubarak Discusses Report on Deficit, Debts

JN2712113089 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic
25 Dec 89 p 1

[By Jamal Shawqi]

[Text] President Husni Mubarak is holding discussions about a serious report on Egypt's economic relations with the world countries. The report affirms that Egypt's economy has been exposed to foreign pressures, including attempts to impose trade terms that are not in Egypt's interest. The report discloses that the government has resorted to monetary expansion by issuing banknotes to face the deficit in the balance of payments and trade balance. It has been also disclosed that the rate of inflation has continued to grow despite government attempts to reduce it. The report also discloses that last July the trade deficit increased to 16.6 billion pounds. Other reports point out that the deficit continued to increase last September up to 17 billion pounds in accordance with the latest estimates. The current deficit has reached 4 billion pounds compared to 2.4 billion pounds last year, which is equivalent to a 60 percent deficit.

The deficit has led to an increase in foreign and domestic debts on the government. Every Egyptian citizen owes the United States $300. The report also affirms that the prices at which Egypt obtained raw materials for production last year have also increased by 12 percent. Oil exports have decreased by 23.6 percent and oil prices also retreated by 19 percent. Cotton exports and products also retreated despite improved cotton prices. The report also points out that no progress has been made in other exports. The report stresses that the government's economic policies have tried to ease the impact of the foreign pressure on Egypt's economy. AL-WAFD has learned that President Husni Mubarak held a limited meeting with government officials last Saturday to review the contents of the report. He also asked Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi to take decisive and urgent measures to increase exports. He called for drawing up a new strategy for economic and trade cooperation with the world countries.

Sidqi Affirms No Current Price Increases

JN2912120289 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic
27 Dec 89 pp 1, 24

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi has stated that there is absolutely no intention of increasing the prices of any commodity at the present stage. He stressed that the government is eager to alleviate the burdens the citizens are shouldering, particularly those in the low-income bracket although the state assumes heavy financial burdens to achieve this objective.

In statements following the meeting of the higher committee for the development of the public sector at the National Democratic Party yesterday evening, Dr Sidqi said that the state pays 63 piasters as a subsidy for every kilo of sugar on the free market which is sold for 1 pound, and 153 piasters for every kilo of sugar sold through the supply cards and which reaches some 950 tonnes a year.

Dr Sidqi added that the government-owned poultry production companies have suffered a loss of 54 million pounds over the past 6 months to maintain the level of prices and not to increase them so as to avoid burdening the citizens.

In reply to a query by AL-AHRAM on the results of the talks between Egypt and the IMF, Dr Sidqi said he hopes that the upcoming session of talks with an IMF delegation, which is expected in Cairo in January, will be the last session in these talks.

Dr Sidqi said that IMF officials have voiced their complete understanding of the Egyptian viewpoint during the recent meeting between Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, in Paris. [passage omitted]

Police Seize 2 Tonnes of Explosives; 4 Arrested

JN2812202289 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 26 Dec 89 P 1

[By Rashad Kamil]

[Text] Cairo Investigation Police have seized 2 tonnes of explosives capable of demolishing an entire city, in a deserted secret store east of the city of 15 Mayu. The store owner and three workers were arrested. Hulwan Prosecutor Jamal Fathi ordered that they be remanded for 15 days.

Cairo Investigation Police Director Brigadier General Fadi al-Habashi had received information to the effect that a merchant in Tura manufactured explosives and stockpiled them in a secret store, and that three workers were helping him in his work. Following this information, a force led by Police Chief Brigadier General Mahmud Wajdi seized 2 tonnes of explosives in the form of 2,350 kg of black dynamite, 450 kg of mixed dynamite, 200 kg of ready-made dynamite of the Anfo brand [as published], and 300 kg of fuses [all figures as published].

Libya

Foreign Secretary Receives Sudanese Counterpart

LD2712232889 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Excerpt] The brother secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation this morning met in Tripoli with the minister of foreign affairs of fraternal Sudan.

The meeting, which was attended by the ministers of commerce, cooperation, supply, energy, minerals and defense in fraternal Sudan, addressed bilateral relations between the sons of the one Arab people in the Great Jamahiriyah and Sudan, ways of strengthening and developing these relations, in addition to a number of questions of mutual interest. [passage omitted]

Joint Communique Issued With Sudan

LD2912233589 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 29 Dec 89

[Text] A joint communique has been issued in Tripoli in the wake of the visit to the Great Jamahiriyah by the Sudanese ministers of foreign affairs, commerce, cooperation and supply, energy and mining, and the ministers of state for defense and agriculture.

The communique affirms that the two sides considered bilateral relations and ways to strengthen and develop them in various spheres in a way that will fulfill the aspirations of the Arab motherland in accomplishing total pan-Arab unity.

The brothers in Sudan expressed their gratitude for the aid and support given by the Libyan Arab people to its fraternal Arab people in Sudan in confronting its economic crisis and bringing about peace in fraternal Sudan.

In this respect, the statement affirms the Libyan Arab people's support for its fraternal Arab people in Sudan in confronting all the political and economic pressures which are being practiced against it to harm its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The statement affirms that the changes which are taking place on the international arena and the challenges which are facing the two sisterly countries require an intensification and consolidation of efforts on their part toward collective Arab action.

Within this framework, the two sides emphasize that, in confronting the results of the fundamental changes being witnessed by the world, the Arabs have no choice before them other than unity.

The two sides affirm that foreign military presence and Zionist infiltration in the African continent constitute a danger which threatens the security of the continent's states and peoples.

From the premise of Afro-Arab brotherhood and unity of destiny, the two sides called upon the African states not to resume diplomatic relations with the Zionist enemy, which is working toward tearing the unity of the African continent apart.

Sudanese Delegation Departs

LD2912173189 Tripoli JANA in English 1635 GMT 29 Dec 89

[Text] Tripoli, Al Kanoun [December] 29, JAMAHIRYAH NEWS AGENCY--In the eastern hall at Tripoli international airport signing took place this morning on 3 agreements and a protocol meeting for the third session of the joint Libyan Arab-Sudanese committee.

The protocol meeting and an agreement to establish a joint bank was signed from the Libyan Arab side by the secretary of the People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation People's Bureau and from the Sudanese side by 'Ali Ahmad Sahlul the foreign minister of sisterly Sudan.

The agreement on parity in trade dealings between Great Jamahiriyah and sisterly Sudan was signed by the secretary of the General People's Committee for Economy and External Trade from the Libyan Arab side and from the Sudanese side Dr. Faruq al-Bishri the minister of commerce, cooperation and provision.

An agreement for cooperation between JANA and the SUDAN NEWS AGENCY was signed by the secretary of

JANA from the Libyan Arab side and 'Abdullah al-Hasan the representative of the Sudanese Ministry of Culture and Information from the Sudanese side.

The agreement of cooperation between JANA and SUDAN NEWS AGENCY includes the basis of cooperation between both agencies to serve the informational workmatters, exchange of technical and informational expertise, news, documents and information and to link both agencies with a direct line.

[Tripoli JANA in English at 1638 GMT on 29 December reports that the Sudanese delegation "left Tripoli this morning following a visit to Great Jamahiriyah which lasted four days."]

'Follow-Up Bureaus' To Open in Cairo, Tripoli

JN2912151489 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 27 Dec 89 pp 1, 2

[By Muhammad Isma'il]

[Text] Paris—Libyan Foreign Liaison Secretary Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi has announced that the two follow-up bureaus [maktabay al-mutaba'ah] in Cairo and Tripoli will be opened within a month and as soon as the offices are made available and buildings are repaired.

Al-Talhi said he will visit Egypt very shortly upon an invitation from Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

In a statement to AL-JUMHURIYYAH, al-Talhi paid tribute to Egypt's initiative at the Euro-Arab dialogue conference during which it called on the EC to open a new page and lift economic sanctions against the Libyan Jamahiriyah and Syria.

Al-Talhi said Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, head of the Egyptian delegation to the conference, was the first to speak about this issue and was followed by the foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia, Morocco, and the Sultanate of Oman.

Al-Talhi indicated that the Egyptian initiative in defense of Libya and Syria is an important indication confirming that Egyptian-Libyan and Egyptian-Syrian relations have returned to normal. It also underscores Egypt's commitment to the Arab causes—a commitment that does not require any proof.

Concerning the possibility of a tripartite meeting between Presidents Mubarak, al-Qadhdhafi, and al-Asad, the Libyan secretary said: In view of the current state of relations between the three countries, such a meeting is not ruled out.

Yunis Jabir Meets Syrian-Based Palestinians

LD2812190289 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 28 Dec 89

[Text] Colonel Abu-Bakr Yunis Jabir met at noon today in Damascus a number of leaders of the Palestinian revolution groups. The meeting was attended by brothers Khalid al-Fahum, Abu-Musa [Colonel Sa'id Musa Muragha], Talal Naji, and Fadhl Surur.

Sudan

Al-Bashir Says Shari'ah Question Resolved

EA3012165589 Khartoum SUNA in English 0910 GMT 30 Dec 89

[Text] Khartoum, 30 Dec (SUNA)—The federal system of government proposed by the national dialogue conference on peace issues last October has resolved the question of shari'ah laws application, Gen al-Bashir said in an interview with SUNA Saturday [29 December]. He explained that the recommendations of the said conference have proposed that any state in the federal system could exempt itself from any law having a religious nature. He said the central federal government could not therefore impose application of such laws on every state. He said the said recommendations have stipulated Islam and customs as the main legislative sources in the country.

BBC Reports Explosion at Khartoum Airport

EA3012111389 London BBC World Service in English 0730 GMT 30 Dec 89

[From the African news]

[Text] Reports from the Sudanese capital, Khartoum, say there has been an explosion at the city's airport. The reports say the explosion was caused by a bomb attached to the body of a French charity worker who was killed last week when a light aircraft was shot down in southern Sudan.

SPLA Officers Reportedly Executed

EA2812101989 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Text] An informed Ministry source declared that Garang's movement recently executed 17 of its military commanders. It is also holding 29 military commanders, from captain to lieutenant colonel, in the movement's prisons. The source said the movement is doing this at the same time it is calling for the release of political prisoners and the observance of human rights. It added in a news statement that of the movement's five-man military high command only John Garang and William Nyuan Bany Deng remain, while the other three—Carabino Kuany Bol, Salva Kiir, and Arok Thuon Arok—are now in the movement's prisons.

Spokesman Denies Executions

AB2812212489 London BBC World Service in English 1615 GMT 28 Dec 89

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] A war of words is going on in Sudan at the moment with both the Khartoum Government and the SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] rebels making accusations. Yesterday, the SPLA claimed that the Sudanese Air Force has been bombing rebel-held towns in Bahr al-Ghazal Province. And today's Khartoum newspapers quote a member of the ruling military council, Colonel Muhammad al- Amin Khalifah. He claims that the SPLA has executed 17 members of its leadership and imprisoned 29 other officers. On the line to Addis Ababa, Josephine Haizely asked SPLA spokesman Lam Akol how he reacted to the claims of executions in the top ranks of the SPLA.

[Begin recording] [Lam Akol] No, this is definitely not true, because 17 commanders for the SPLA is a big number. So, that will be almost a big portion of our commanders. So there will be nobody to command the forces in [words indistinct].

[Haizely] Now, there is also the claim that the SPLA had jailed another 29 of its officers and they say that they range from captain to lieutenant colonel.

[Lam Akol] First of all, we do not have a rank called a lieutenant colonel in the SPLA, so this exposes the falsity of the information. The SPLA does not have a rank of lieutenant colonel. Secondly, if we ever imprison, we have a law which governs all our activities and the law on which any crime is judged. So definitely, one of the sentences of that law is imprisonment. So, if we ever imprison anybody, it would be after a due process of law.

[Haizely] Well, you say you do not have the rank of captain to lieutenant colonel. Now, what are the ranks of your military?

[Lam Akol] What I said exactly is that we do not have a rank of a lieutenant colonel, but we do have a rank of captain. Our officers' rank is from second lieutenant, first lieutenant, captain, alternate commander, and commander. But we do not have something like a lieutenant colonel.

[Haizely] But then, the Sudanese media, that is the media—one of the sources of this information—is saying that in fact, these killings could well have taken place, because normally, within your movement, there is a lot of [word indistinct] and ideological differences.

[Lam Akol] [Words indistinct] and ideological differences. These are two contradictory statements, because somebody who is having an ideological commitment will definitely have nothing to do with tribal groupings. Secondly, how much credit do you give to the Sudanese media? They are nothing more than just a mouthpiece of the government. So, it is part and parcel of the government's disinformation campaign.

[Haizely] On the other hand, your movement, that is the SPLA, has been claiming as well that the Sudanese authorities have been carrying out bombing raids on the towns you hold in the south of the country. Can you give me a little bit more details on these raids?

[Lam Akol] The raid so far has been on civilian targets. They have never tried to bomb where the SPLA foces are and secondly, it is almost a plan that the centers they bomb are the relief centers. So this definitely tallies with the government's position in trying to stop relief reaching the people and therefore using food as a weapon. [end recording]

RCC Member Addresses Student Conference

EA2712141789 Khartoum SUNA in English 0915 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Text] Khartoum, 27 Dec (SUNA)—Member of the Revolutionary Command Council [RCC] Brigadier 'Uthman Ahmad al-Hasan yesterday addressed the inaugural session of the National Students' Dialogue Conference, organised by the General Union for Sudanese students.

Brig 'Uthman, who is also chairman of RCC political committee, has praised the students' movement in upholding the national action since independence, and until the stage of rebuilding Sudan, following the eruption of the National Salvation Revolution.

He told the conference that the students' contribution in the cultural move and social development in Sudan would go down in history as unforgettable deals [as recieved].

He reaffirmed that the ongoing cooperation between the revolution and the students' movement comes towards the realisation of the motto "national unity", which was declared by the revolution.

Brig al-Hasan went on to confirm that the revolution is keen to implement an educational revolution that would satisfy both the country's and students' needs.

The inaugural session was also addressed by Education Minister Mahjub al-Badawi Muhammad, who hailed the idea of convening such a conference, saying that it confirmed maturity of the students movement.

He noted that the conference would provide an ample opportunity for the Sudanese students to contribute in the national rebuilding process in Sudan.

Al-Badawi meanwhile has called on students to participate in the illiteracy campaigns during their summer school vacations.

He added that the government will adopt the students' conference recommendations.

Kuwait

Egyptian, PLO Officials Cited on Talks

LD2912121989 Kuwait KUNA in English
1045 GMT 29 Dec 89

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 29 (KUNA)—Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid said contacts were underway between his country and the [word indistinct] recent developments with special emphasis on the Egyptian-Palestinian dialogue, Palestinian-Israeli dialogue and the expected meeting between him and the U.S. and Israeli foreign ministers.

In an interview with Kuwaiti daily AL-ANBA', published here today, 'Abd-al-Majid was quoted as praising relations and understanding existing between Egypt and the Palestine Liberation Organization.

But head of the PLO's Political Department Faruq Qaddumi was quoted by the same paper as saying the PLO has nothing to do with the upcoming meeting between the three foreign ministers, adding they were parties to the Camp David agreement.

Reiterating the organisation's rejection of the U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's five-point plan, Qaddumi said the U.S. was playing a "deceptive" role and was trying to persuade the Palestinians to give up their demands for national rights.

'Abd-al-Majid said the tripartite meeting would focus on Baker's plan and, if the need arises, they would discuss President Husni Mubarak's ten-point plan.

Qaddumi said there was an attempt to overstep the Palestinian representation, stressing he who wants to conduct dialogue should talk to a delegation to be chosen by the PLO.

Commenting on restoration of Egyptian-Syrian diplomatic relations, 'Abd-al-Majid said the move would have positive effect on all Arab issues.

"It is an important an positive step envisaging coordination between the two countries in all fields," 'Abd-al-Majid said.

New Romanian Leadership Officially Recognized

JN0101182590 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English
31 December 89 p 1

[Text] Kuwait Dec 30, (Agencies)—Kuwait yesterday became the first member of the six-nation, oil-rich Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) to recognise the new leadership in Romania, according to a Foreign Ministry statement.

Kuwait expressed support for Romania's new leadership as well as a desire to develop relations with the East European country, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

The spokesman said the Kuwaiti stance was conveyed by the Undersecretary at the Foreign Ministry, Sulayman Majid al-Shahin, to Romanian Ambassador Georghe Serbanescu.

"Kuwait, which has been following up the recent events in Romania, supports the new leadership which represents the will of the friendly people in Romania," he was quoted as telling the Romanian diplomat.

"Kuwait wishes the new Romanian leadership success in achieving its national objectives and expresses the desire in retaining the developed relations between the two friendly countries," al-Shahin was quoted as adding.

"Kuwait had good diplomatic and economic co-operation links with the previous regime of Nicolae Ceausescu, who visited this oil state in 1976. [quotation mark as published]

Meanwhile, the KUWAIT NEWS AGENCY quoted a statement by the Hungarian press implicating Arabs in the fighting in Romania.

The statement was dispatched to KUNA in response to a strongly worded message by the agency's chairman, Bargis Hamoud al-Bargis, who is also president of the Federation of Arab News Agencies to Hungary and others about "false reports" alleging participation of Palestinians, Syrians and Libyans.

Romania's new premier has denied reports that Libyans fought alongside security forces loyal to deposed dictator Nicolae Ceausescu, the Romanian state AGERPRES news agency reported today.

The National Salvation Front Council, which is acting as interim leadership, pledged yesterday to honour all of Romania's international commitments, including its membership in the Soviet-led Warsaw Pact military alliance.

The government received a boost from one Warsaw Pact partner with a visit from Hungarian Foreign Minister Gyula Horn.

Meanwhile, thousands of forces who defended Ceausescu's last vestiges of power were reported in custody as the interim leadership took firm control to begin steering the country toward democracy and free elections.

Several thousand members of Ceausescu's dreaded Securitate secret police have been arrested but several hundred more remain in hiding, defying an order to surrender or face execution, said Cazimir Ionescu, a vice-president in the leadership committee's 145-member council, which has declared it holds supreme power.

The council had ordered the Securitate holdouts to surrender by 5 pm (1500 GMT) Thursday, or face execution.

Romania's new government invited Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze today to visit Bucharest in the first 10 days of January, Bucharest radio said.

The radio said Sergiu Celac, foreign minister in the government set up by the National Salvation Front this week, gave the invitation to the Soviet ambassador in Bucharest and it was accepted in principle. No precise date was given.

A member of the National Salvation Committee, Silviu Brucan, was quoted as saying today that Ceausescu was bound for "a North African country" when he was seized by Romanian soldiers.

The report, monitored in Vienna, also said Libyan military leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi told Romanian Interim-President Ion Iliescu that rumours of Libyan involvement in the fighting were "completely groundless."

Al-Qadhdhafi conveyed to Iliescu "warm congratulations for the victory of the Romanian people's revolution and expressed regret "for the loss of human lives," AGERPRES said.

The Arab League called on Romanian authorities earlier this week to stop a wave of assaults against Arab students in Romania sparked by reports of Arabs joining the security forces fighting the Army.

Romania's new leaders have removed more of the restrictions that were imposed during the dictatorship of Ceausescu.

Oman

PRC President Ends 3-Day Visit to Muscat

JN2812140289 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 28 Dec 89

[Excerpt] His Excellency PRC President Yang Shangkun this morning left the country following a 3-day official visit to the Sultanate upon an invitation from His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id. [passage omitted]

PDRY

Socialist Party Official Receives Italian Premier

EA2912021589 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 29 Dec 89

[Text] Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, Yemeni Socialist Party Central Committee secretary general, at noon today received Giulio Andreotti, prime minister of the Republic of Italy, and his accompanying delegation. During the meeting they reviewed relations between the two countries and ways of strengthening and developing them. They also reviewed regional and international developments and other issues of common interest.

The brother secretary general briefed Mr Andreotti on the comprehensive political and economic reform and efforts by the two-part Yemen to achieve unity, pointing out that Yemeni unity [words indistinct] stability in the region [words indistinct], welcoming the developing relations between our country and the republic of Italy [words indistinct].

Andreotti said he was pleased to visit our country and stressed Italy's desire to develop cooperation with the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen.

On the Yemeni side, the meeting was attended by brothers Dr 'Abd al-Aziz al-Dali, Central Committee member and foreign minister, and 'Uthman 'Abd al-Jabir Rashid, labor and civil service minister [words indistinct].

Saudi Arabia

Hijack Threat Overcome on Domestic Flight

LD3112151989 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1430 GMT 31 Dec 89

[Text] An authoritative source at the Interior Ministry has made the following statement:

Thirty minutes after Saudi Airlines flight 450 took off at 0300 today, 31 December, on its way from Jeddah to Riyadh, one of the passengers handed a written message to the crew, which was conveyed by the steward to the plane's captain. The message stated that the captain should fly to Larnaka and once there the plane should stop at the far end of the runway, otherwise he and his companions would blow up the plane.

As soon as security men on board were informed about the message, they were able, thanks to God's assistance, to calmly arrest the hijacker, who turned out to be a 32-year-old Saudi citizen. The security men requested the captain fly back to Jeddah airport. The plane landed at the airport at 0400.

The security authorities evacuated the plane after apprehending the hijacker, who was acting abnormally.

The security men did not find any arms or explosives in the hijacker's possession; and immediately afterward the appropriate authorities began investigations.

Yemen Arab Republic

Italian Premier Leaves Sanaa After Talks

JN2912124089 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 29 Dec 89

[Excerpts] Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti left Sanaa this morning after a 3-day visit to our country. He was accorded an official send-off.

Leading those seeing him off at Sanaa International Airport was brother 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, prime minister and Standing Committee member. Also attending were brothers 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy

prime minister, foreign minister, and Standing Committee member; Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar, deputy prime minister, minister of development, head of the Central Planning Authority, and Standing Committee member; a number of brother ministers and ranking officials; our ambassador to Italy, and the Italian ambassador in Sanaa. [passage omitted]

Andreotti, in a statement to SABA' NEWS AGENCY prior to departure, expressed his great appreciation of the political administration in our country. He also expressed joy over this visit, during which we conducted talks of great importance, including bilateral relations between the Yemen Arab Republic [YAR] and Italy, as well as on general and international issues.

He added: Truly, we highly appreciate the political administration in the YAR. I was very pleased to meet the prime minister. This will push us to strengthen ties and increase contacts that will yield many results in the future. He referred to Italy's contributions to protecting and maintaining antiquities in our country.

Concluding his statement, he expressed his hopes that Italian aid concerning this important cultural aspect will lead to cooperation in economic fields.

Communique Issued on Visit

JN3012123289 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 29 Dec 89

[Text] A press communique was issued today on the 3-day visit to the Yemen Arab Republic [YAR] by Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti. The communique notes the two sides' satisfaction with the level of bilateral relations. The two sides expressed their interest in developing this relationship and expanding the fields of cooperation in the various fields. The communique notes the Italian side was briefed on a paper submitted by the Yemeni side concerning future cooperation, and that steps will be taken to study projects of the small and [word indistinct] industry and vocational training. Andreotti promised his government will give priority to cooperation with the YAR, voicing appreciation for unity steps between the two parts of Yemen. Andreotti said: This unity serves not only Yemen's interests, but the interests of the Arab nation.

Concerning Arab issues, the communique notes the two sides' agreement on the need for the Palestinian people to attain their legitimate and just rights. Agreement has been reached to internationally coordinate the two countries' positions on the Palestinian issue and to do whatever is necessary to bolster international efforts to convene an international peace conference with the participation of all parties and in a manner that secures the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. Regarding this, the Yemeni side paid tribute to the Italian Government's positive stands on the Palestine question.

Regarding Lebanon, the communique notes the two sides' views agreed on supporting legitimacy, underlining the importance of maintaining the Lebanese homeland's unity and independence, and restoring peace and stability.

The two sides expressed satisfaction with the continuation of the cease-fire between Iraq and Iran, voicing their hope and calling for further dialogue to reach genuine peace in light of UN Security Council Resolution No 598. The sides commended the experience of the Arab group, underscoring the importance of collective Arab action and the necessity of regional economic integration.

The Italian side indicated it attaches great importance to (?cooperation) with Arab countries, especially since they represent the utmost importance in international cooperation [words indistinct].

On the international level, the two sides expressed satisfaction with [words indistinct] that have positive effect on [words indistinct] in the economic and development fields.

The communique notes Andreotti has invited the YAR prime minister to visit Italy. The YAR prime minister accepted the invitation and the date will be set later. [passage indistinct]

Paper Warns Israel Over Attacking Rocket Bases
JN3012115289 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0920 GMT 30 Dec 89

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Dec (INA)—The newspaper AL-QADISIYYAH has said Iraq's launch of the al-'Abid missile system and the Tammuz 1 rocket has rendered impotent all superficial and malevolent calculations of the enemies of Iraq and the Arab nation.

In a study published today on page three under the rubric "Celebration For Brothers and Funeral For Enemies," AL-QADISIYYAH reviews the strategic basis for Iraq's scientific achievement and says: This achievement will be a big lesson to those trying to hide the sunlight with a sieve. This achievement also is proof Iraq possesses an inexhaustible reservoir of intellect and determination, inspired by the genius of leader President Saddam Husayn.

The paper goes on to say: The developments of the war, which was crowned by a manifest Iraqi victory, have yielded a number of scientific, engineering, and construction initiatives. Among these initiatives was the remarkable scientific achievement embodied in the production of the space missile system and the completion of its first stage, which was one of the fruits of the creative Iraqi mind.

The paper adds: This skillful scientific achievement is a natural outcome of the hard work of the Iraqi people, who fight in peacetime with the same vigor they had during the 8-year battle.

The paper asserts: Just as the construction of al-Basrah and the reconstruction of al-Faw in record time proved the Iraqi citizen—under the leadership of President Saddam Husayn—is a creative surprise in the battles of peace, war, and progress. The achievement represented by the al-'Abid rocket, while flying into space, also has carried a message of peace to the entire world.

On the strategic basis of this scientific achievement, the paper says: This major strategic event has put the Arab nation on the threshold of a new pan-Arab renaissance and opened the doors of the space age through Iraq's mastery of scientific methods and highly complex techniques for peaceful and defensive purposes. One achievement was it rendered impotent the long-range Israeli rocket's field value, because it stripped Israel of its military superiority for the sake of the Arab nation.

The paper also indicated this great achievement has made the Arabs stronger than their enemies, despite all the alliances between the United States and the enemies of the Arab nation, especially the Zionist entity.

It adds: Iraq today is among the developed industrial countries which possess highly-developed technology. This no doubt will reflect on the international weight of the Arab nation, increasing its impact on regional and international forums.

The paper mocked all futile attempts to belittle the face of pan-Arabism and capable Iraq, especially Zionism's bragging about its ability to harm this achievement, or the attempt to strike at the bases of the al-'Abid missile and other peaceful scientific construction in Iraq. The paper recalled such attempts might have been possible in the past, but today's Iraq is different. If the Zionist entity has struck at the peaceful Tammuz reactor and gotten away with it until now, it will pay double for any venture or foolish act it might perpetrate against Iraq. The paper affirmed the response will be harsh, because the Zionist entity has to pay twice—and the price will be costly.

Paper Says Ramadan Urges Direct Talks With Iran
PM2912161989 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 29 Dec 89 pp 1-2

[Layla Dib report: "Taha Yasin Ramadan Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Iraq Expressed Willingness to Conduct Negotiations with an Iranian Delegation in Baghdad"]

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, Iraqi Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, has announced Iraq has presented practical proposals to achieve peace with Iran. He expressed hope something will be achieved in 1990 on the road of peace, as 1989 has elapsed without any positive progress.

In an exclusive statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT yesterday at the end of his visit to Jordan, Ramadan said Iraq has a practical proposal, namely that direct negotiations be conducted between Iraq and Iran and that specialized committees be formed to discuss outstanding problems in Tehran and Baghdad.

He announced Iraq's willingness to host the final meeting in Baghdad and its wish for the meeting to be higher than the foreign ministers level.

On Iraqi POW's in Iran, Ramadan said the world and the Red Cross know what Iraqi POW's in Iran have suffered and still suffer. He added that, apart from inhuman treatment, there is malign activity to feed the POW's ideas hostile to their country and its orientations.

On how to fight these "brainwash" operations, Ramadan said this aspect does not worry Iraq much, because it knows the nationalist elements—which understand their country's march, revolution, and also understand Iran's intentions—will not be affected. He added: These Iranian attempts will achieve nothing. If some elements yielded or failed to confront such a situation, that would be different.

He said everything is dealt with in time. He added: I am saying this not out of concern for the POW's fate, but to point to the Iranian rulers' behavior and the method they are applying to deal with such a situation—a very backward, desperate attempt and method.

Ramadan left Amman yesterday after a 2-day visit, during which he was received by King Husayn of Jordan. He also conducted talks with Jordanian Prime Minister Mudar Badran, during which they discussed bilateral relations, developments on the Arab scene, and ways of supporting the Palestinian intifadah, as well as developments in the Iraq-Iran situation. Ramadan and Badran also chaired the meetings of the higher joint committee.

On the results of his Amman talks, Ramadan told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: When an Iraqi delegation comes to Jordan—whether for consultation, to exchange views on cooperation or the region's affairs, or to meet within the framework of the higher joint committee—the two sides work as one team to find practical, possible means the two countries can use to confront challenges and build a strong, developed relationship between two fraternal states aiming to achieve sublime principles.

He added that despite delicate and difficult conditions and the financial position of both countries, it has been possible to find suitable solutions during a short period and to boost cooperation in all fields.

President Chairs Council of Ministers Meeting

JN3112191389 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1840 GMT 31 Dec 89

[Text] Baghdad, 31 Dec (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has chaired a 2 and 1/2-hour meeting of the Council of Ministers. Topics on the agenda were discussed and appropriate decisions and measures taken.

At the meeting's start, the ministers congratulated President Saddam Husayn on the new year, wishing him long life, excellent health, and happiness. They also wished Iraq further progress in occupying an important position among nations under his historic leadership, which has realized a great victory and giant achievements.

Saddam Presides Over Joint RCC-Party Meeting

JN3112071889 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2155 GMT 30 Dec 89

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Dec (INA)—President Saddam Husayn this evening presided over a 3-hour joint meeting of the Revolution Command Council and the Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party. The conferees discussed topics on the agenda and adopted necessary decisions and measures.

Saddam Cables Congratulations to CSSR's Havel

JN3012195289 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 30 Dec 89

["Text" of cable of congratulations from President Saddam Husayn to CSSR President Vaclav Havel on his election; date not given]

[Text] Your Excellency CSSR President Vaclav Havel: On the occasion of your election as CSSR president, it pleases us to send your excellency our heartfelt congratulations, wishing you continued good health, further progress and prosperity to the CSSR people, and continued development and enhancement of the good ties existing between our two countries in the interest of our two friendly peoples.
[Signed] Saddam Husayn, President of the Republic of Iraq

Foreign Under Secretary Meets U.S. Official

JN3012115589 Baghdad INA in English 1100 GMT 30 Dec 89

[Text] Baghdad, Dec 30, INA—The Iraqi foreign undersecretary met here today U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Administrative Affairs Evan Selin and his accompanying delegation.

During the meeting, attended by the U.S. ambassador in Baghdad and the head of the political department in the ministry, both officials discussed bilateral relations and means of promoting them.

Minister Weizman Dismissed From Cabinet

Shamir Fires Weizman 31 Dec

TA3112112289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 31 Dec 89

[Arye Golan report]

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir announced a short while ago at the Cabinet meeting that he is using his authority to fire Minister 'Ezer Weizman.

Immediately after this announcement, which the prime minister explained by the encounters Minister Weizman had held with the PLO—no other details of these encounters are known at this time—the Cabinet meeting was discontinued. The ministers gathered in two separate groups: The Likud ministers and the prime minister are now meeting in one of the conference rooms, while the Alignment ministers' forum is holding a meeting of its own to discuss the next moves. [passage omitted]

'Text' of Dismissal Letter

TA3112134789 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1250 GMT 31 Dec 89

["Text" of the prime minister's letter of dismissal to Minister 'Ezer Weizman—read by unidentified correspondent]

[Text] Shalom. Pursuant to my announcement in the Cabinet today and in accordance with Article 21A of the Basic Law: The Government, I am hereby relieving you of your duty as minister in the Cabinet. I gave the reasons for this during the Cabinet session, and they are primarily: maintaining direct and indirect contacts with the PLO for an extended period of time in contravention of the law and in violation of the government's basic guidelines, and consequently in violation of your responsibility as a Cabinet member.

In accordance with the said article, your term will end 48 hours after receipt of this letter. Sincerely, Yitzhaq Shamir.

Shamir's 'Official' Cabinet Statement

TA3112133489 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1246 GMT 31 Dec 89

[Text] Yosi Ahime'ir, the head of the Prime Minister's Bureau, provided us with the official announcement, entitled: The announcement made by the prime minister to the Cabinet on the dismissal of Minister Weizman. Let me read it:

Cabinet members, I feel duty-bound to convey to you the following statement: By virtue of my authority in accordance with clause number so and so, I wish to inform the Cabinet herein that I have decided to relieve Minister 'Ezer Weizman of his duties. An announcement to this effect will be delivered to the Knesset as well, in accordance with the demands of the law.

The reason for this move is that Minister Weizman held both direct and indirect meetings with PLO for an extended period, thereby violating the law and contravening the government's basic guidelines.

Some time ago he met with an official PLO representative in a European country. He has recently dispatched messages to PLO leader 'Arafat and even received messages from him via an emissary.

Furthermore, Minister Weizman knows very well what I mean, and he even admitted this to an official representative.

As will be recalled, Clause 4-H of the Anti-Terror Act stipulates that it is a crime to maintain contacts knowingly and without the proper authority, whether in Israel or outside it, with a person holding a position in the administration, executive branch, or any other body of a terrorist organization—and the PLO falls within this category. Furthermore, the basic guidelines of the government of which Mr Weizman is a member stipulate that Israel will not negotiate with the PLO. We reiterated as much in the Cabinet's peace initiative and the recent Inner Cabinet resolution.

Despite all the above and in contravention of the policy, the law, and his ministerial responsibility, Mr Weizman took the action he did.

The statement further states the following: Cabinet members, it was not an easy decision, which is by nature rather far-reaching. For years I overlooked statements issued against me by Minister Weizman and other Cabinet members, which many of my colleagues had recommended that I regard as a pretext for the removal of a minister from his position. Yet whenever the statements were of a personal nature—and let me point out that the word personal is in quotes—or of an internal political issue—and this phrase is in inverted commas—I decided to swallow them for the sake of the unity of the government and its continued functioning for the good of the state.

Things were different this time, however, when at issue is something pertaining to the very heart of Israel's political positions. I do not believe there will be any person in Israel who will be able to understand how I could allow Minister Weizman to continue to serve in the Cabinet, whose policy he is subverting, thereby breaking all the rules and violating collective responsibility.

Precisely at a time when the Cabinet is called upon to conduct negotiations on fundamental and sensitive issues, it is inconceivable that it will include a member who permits himself to maintain contacts with the adversary.

And the final sentence: I must add that I did not want to reach a situation in which I would be forced to issue such a statement in the Cabinet. I had hoped to bring about the voluntary resignation of Minister Weizman and had discussed this with the vice prime minister. As this did not work out, I had no alternative but to take this move.

The termination of Minister Weizman's duty will become effective in 48 hours.

Weizman Resigns Inner Cabinet 2 Jan

TA0201100590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0953 GMT 2 Jan 90

[Statement by Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein after the meeting between Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Minister 'Ezer Weizman—live]

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir met this morning with Mr 'Ezer Weizman, the science and technology minister. The prime minister explained to Mr Weizman the grave view he takes of any contact with terrorist organizations, mainly with the PLO. The prime minister reiterated the government guidelines and its resolutions forbidding contacts with the PLO.

Minister Weizman accepted the prime minister's remarks and will act in accordance with the government's guidelines and resolutions. At the conclusion of the meeting, Mr Weizman announced that he is resigning from the Inner Cabinet [hakabinet hamedinibithoni]. The prime minister advised Mr Weizman that the question of his membership in the Inner Cabinet will be reexamined after 1 and ½ years.

Weizman Holds News Conference

TA0201104990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0956 GMT 2 Jan 90

[Report on news conference by 'Ezer Weizman, science and technology minister, with several correspondents following his resignation from the Inner Cabinet—live]

[Excerpts] [Voice of Israel correspondent Ze'ev Kohen] The mediator and central figure in the compromise move seems to have been the defense minister. The vice prime minister was in the picture. The whole thing was done through telephone conversations with 'Ezer Weizman, who knew about the solution that was being formed and who gave his consent before he arrived in Jerusalem.

The crisis, then, is over. Minister Weizman knew from the phone calls he had had with the vice prime minister's office what it was all about. He gave his consent, despite the very determined remarks made yesterday by various Alignment figures who said that the party should not agree to Weizman's withdrawal from the Inner Cabinet.

As we have heard, 'Ezer Weizman is beginning a test period of about 18 months outside the Inner Cabinet. I understand that he may still travel to the Soviet Union. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent Golan] Mr Weizman, what is your opinion of the conclusion of this crisis?

[Weizman] First of all, the crisis is over. Second, I reject all the attempts to say whether I am or am not guilty, because as far as I am concerned, guilt has to be proven through prosecution. The prime minister did not show me the secret material, and I did not ask to see it. I regret the fact that whatever he had was shown to the general public, but that is his prerogative. I do not wish to say any more on this subject.

My meeting with him lasted 6 or 7 minutes, and agreement had been prepared in advance. I told him: Here, I am returning your letter. He replied: No need, I will write you another one. I said: No, I would rather this letter be in your archives, not mine. Thus, the whole issue was concluded with smiles and handshakes. He will write me another letter, period.

[Kohen] Does not quitting the Inner Cabinet amount to admitting guilt?

[Weizman] Why? There are many people who are not guilty of anything and who are not Inner Cabinet members.

[Unidentified correspondent] Will you continue being a minister?

[Weizman] Certainly. Science and technology minister.

[Golan] Will you continue holding contacts and talks, transcripts of which will afterward reach the Prime Minister's Office?

[Weizman] I will continue talking with the prime minister tomorrow, and I will talk with whomever I wish. I accepted the proposed solution and will adhere to the agreement.

[Correspondent Schiffer] Does the fact that you are no longer an Inner Cabinet member not mean that you have a lower security clearance?

[Weizman] Does the fact that Mordekhay Gur is not a member of the Inner Cabinet mean that his security clearance is low?

[Golan] Are you going to Moscow, 'Ezer Weizman?

[Weizman] I agreed to go. No one said anything to me about contacts with the PLO, I was not shown any material, I did not ask to see any material. There was a cordial conversation with the prime minister.

[Golan] Are you going to Moscow, Minister Weizman?

[Weizman] I am going to Vienna tomorrow morning, from where I will proceed to Moscow.

[Golan] Papers said that you are going to meet with Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas] there, if I may ask this question at this time.

[Weizman] An utter lie. Knock it off with these Abu-Mazins, Abu-Shmazins. Thank you all very much.

Further Reportage on Weizman Dismissal, Crisis

Weizman Comments on 'Hypocrisy'

TA3112150989 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1425 GMT 31 Dec 89

[Telephone interview with "dismissed" Science and Technology Minister 'Ezer Weizman by Dan Shilon and Gilat Levi—live]

[Text] [Shilon] Let us contact Minister 'Ezer Weizman's office. This is the man that could bring down the national unity government. Good evening, Minister Weizman.

[Weizman] Good evening, Dan.

[Shilon] What is your version?

[Weizman] First of all, I do not give my own versions. The problem is not versions, but that I hope and believe that as a result of the prime minister's move—and it is his prerogative to do certain things—he has brought the crisis out to the fore. This will be a real crisis, one which the Labor Party and the Likud will have to decide upon, and not only insofar as 'Ezer Weizman will or will not receive the backing [previous word in English]. This is merely trivial. If they do, I will be pleased; if they do not, I will be sorry. But now the Labor Party, most of all, will have to rise and say what its path will be.

[Shilon] Was what you are saying now not something that should have been done before the gun was pointed at the national unity government's head, so to speak? Would it not have been more appropriate, or more publicly decent, for you and your government to bring this issue up before the public and the nation...

[Weizman, interrupting] Wait a minute, Dan. I wish you would ask a question, not give us a whole lecture. I agree that certain things could have been done more decently and honorably during the past 10 or 15 years, for example, if we had decided clearly whether or not to talk to the PLO. Let no one pull my leg by claiming that the Israeli Government is not using information about other people's talks with the PLO on the composition of the delegation with which we will meet to discuss the elections. Egypt deals with that, as does the United States, and all sorts of friends or elements that are not so friendly. In other words, there is a measure of hypocrisy in all of this. The prime minister himself met with Jamil al-Tarifi, other ministers conferred with Sari Nusaybah—if I am not mistaken that was Ehud Olmert. But do not let me start to compliment others here.

If you ask me, regarding your question, certainly things should have been done differently a long time ago. Yet I did not plan things, and was just as surprised as you.

I met the prime minister on Wednesday at 0815 to report to him about my upcoming trip to Moscow—which for now is no longer valid—and he did not even give me the slightest intimation of his plans, which he had every right to conceal. A man acts exactly in accordance with his constitution and character.

[Levi] Do you confirm meeting with Nabil Ramlawi, the head of the PLO office in Geneva? According to reports, you...

[Weizman, interrupting] Who is Ramlawi? I was asked about all sorts of names. But listen, I will not be interrogated by anyone. I repeat: What happened today is a classical case in which I was being used for a host of other reasons. Yet I repeat: I have been accused of maintaining contacts or transmitting messages—but I maintain that message were transmitted by many people. But please do not ask me this specific question. The main question is where the people of Israel are being led by this government. This is a great historic opportunity to take matters into our hands, whether this is done by this party or by the other, and move forward. (?The rest of the issue) is irrelevant.

[Shilon] We will turn to the matter of principle in a minute, and yet the question is: You say...

[Weizman, interrupting] Dan, I agreed to respond to a brief interview, not a long affair.

[Shilon] Fine, this will be a 5-minute discussion, and with your permission, let me ask you this: You mentioned the principle, but still the issue has its personal aspects, and also possibly criminal angles. The question is whether or not you met with a man you were not allowed to meet with, according to the laws of the state?

[Weizman] I will not answer this. I have met with plenty of people during my lifetime; many of my friends met with all sorts of people; I am not sure that it is permissible to meet Sari Nusaybah and Faysal al-Husayni, because then the question is why meetings with PLO members are allowed if they are held here, whereas they are forbidden if held elsewhere. Let all of the Israeli Government ministers recount with whom they have met. I will therefore not delve into this. I reiterate: I think the prime minister had his own reasons for taking that move, and I think the main reason is not 'Ezer Weizman but other reasons. I am proud to think that this might have created an opportunity for the State of Israel, or the Israeli Government, to be forced to decide quo vadis.

[Levi] You know that you might face criminal charges?

[Weizman] Listen to me: I know. Hey, how old are you?

[Levi] That is not up for discussion at the moment.

[Weizman] What?

[Shilon] That is not what we are discussing now.

[Weizman] Why do you say that? If she asks me if I know it, then I would like to know how old she is.

I am an old hand at this, seasoned, and fully aware of what can happen. Let the prime minister come and say explicitly what he wants, and not in a veiled way. This is not the problem. The problem is which way the State of Israel is going. The problem is that contacts with the PLO are being held continuously via the United States, Egypt, or Israeli circles which are clearly aware of this. If the State of Israel opens its eyes for once and sees where it is leading the nation, what is true and what is false, we will go downhill even more. Thank you very much.

[Shilon] Wait a minute, let me ask you one final question on principle, not the personal angle. Let me ask you about the political issue in principle.

[Weizman] Who was that kid who asked me questions?

[Shilon] She is participating in this broadcast with us, her name is Gilat Levi, and she is a reporter with IDF Radio.

[Weizman] Oh, wonderful. I see.

[Shilon] You were saying that you are hoping to lead to a final decision.

[Weizman] I did not say I am leading to that, I said that Shamir has brought about a situation that requires a decision.

[Shilon] Still, the question is whether you cannot note the political danger precisely in the principle that you might be leading the Labor Party to the most colossal [previous word in English] failure in its history because it is insisting on a case [previous word in English] in which a minister from its own ranks has done something against the law?

[Weizman] Dan, leave me alone. I do not represent the Labor Party, and therefore I will not answer these questions. The Labor Party should decide on several issues. I do not indulge in prophecies. This is an opportunity for the Government of Israel and the parties to decide. I am the least important part of this.

[Shilon] What do you expect will happen this evening during the Alignment ministerial forum session?

[Weizman] That they will decide what they want politically.

[Shilon] What will you recommend?

[Levi] That they should bolt the government?

[Weizman] Dan, listen to me, my friend, we have talked so much, and I promised you a brief session. It has taken 5 minutes. Believe me, in my present situation I feel very clearly that as a result of the prime minister's move the State of Israel will have to decide where it is going. Thank you and goodbye.

[Shilon] Goodbye.

Shin Bet 'Knew' of Meeting

TA3112175489 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1605 GMT 31 Dec 89

[Interview with Science and Technology Minister 'Ezer Weizman by David Gilbo'a in the studio—live]

[Excerpt] [Gilbo'a] Minister Weizman, good evening.

[Weizman] Good evening.

[Gilbo'a] The prime minister is making very serious charges against you. He almost accuses you of treason. He said that you have acted behind his back; against the Israeli peace initiative; you have instructed Israel's enemies on how to act against its government.

[Weizman] Fine. I heard Mr Shamir right now. First, negotiations with the PLO are being conducted all the time. If Yitzhaq Shamir now said that no negotiations with the PLO are being held, he is not telling the truth.

[Gilbo'a] Who is negotiating with the PLO? Yitzhaq Shamir?

[Weizman] Negotiations are conducted by the Americans, the Egyptians, ambassadors, all sorts of people. As for his remark concerning my acting behind his back—and I am not a defendant on trial after being charged by Yitzhaq Shamir, and I will soon make my stand clear concerning the moves on which I disagree with him, and with others—the Shin Bet knew of all the matters. Let the head of the Shin Bet step forward and state otherwise.

[Gilbo'a] You mean that the Shin Bet knew of all of your meeting with the PLO officials?

[Weizman] I did not meet with PLO officials.

[Gilbo'a] So what did the Shin Bet know?

[Weizman] Ask it please. I dined with the head of the Shin Bet some 10 days ago at a Tel Aviv restaurant.

[Gilbo'a] Did you brief him on your expected meetings with the PLO?

[Weizman] We held a conversation. He did not mention any warning whatsoever. Our discussion was not about me; it was about someone else. This is not the issue, however. I heard the remarks accusing a person such as myself with the charges we have heard. I believe this should be ignored. I have no intention of arguing with Yitzhaq Shamir. I am not facing a judge.

The State of Israel is at a crossroad. I believe that Yitzhaq Shamir's action will prove to be a blessing. I will suffer, but my personal future is unimportant. Eventually, both the Likud and the Alignment will have to decide what they intend to do and where they are heading. Likud ministers whispered in my ear: We agree

with you. Likud ministers have met with Faysal al-Husayni, as well as with others. I do not want to cover myself with other people's meetings.

[Gilbo'a] That is why I would like to ask you at this point, Mr Weizman, did you really meet with PLO officials...

[Weizman] Excuse me. I held a meeting with Dr Ahmad al-Tibi. The moves of Dr al-Tibi are well known to all the elements in Israel.

[Gilbo'a] But is it legal to hold such a meeting?

[Weizman] Wait a minute. I met him, and no one told me not to. Shin Bet men advised me on what to advise him only 10 days ago. That is why it is irrelevant to be interrogated at this stage, even by you. [passage omitted]

Shamir Interviewewd on Weizman

TA3112173689 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1608 GMT 31 Dec 89

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by political correspondent Yig'al Goren in the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem—live]

[Text] [Goren] Mr Prime Minister, what exactly are the specific charges you have—or the reports that have been brought to your attention—which prompted you to decide on this drastic move?

[Shamir] Look, this took time to mature. It continued for a certain period of time. I know—and Minister Weizman never denied the facts—that he had maintained contacts with PLO representatives, guided them on what to say, how to foil our moves, how to refute our arguments, how to counter our peace initiative. This went on for some time. The PLO listened to his advice, to a certain extent. In such a state of affairs, I said, we have no chance whatsoever of ever succeeding.

People say that I want to torpedo the peace move, and that this is why I did this. I say exactly the opposite: Just as it becomes necessary to conduct negotiations on the most fundamental and sensitive issues, it becomes imperative that there not be among the group of men who conduct the negotiations anyone who maintains contacts with the adversary, with the enemy, revealing our moves to that enemy and telling it how to abort these moves.

[Goren] Who did Minister 'Ezer Weizman meet with? What exactly did he do?

[Shamir] Look, I cannot reveal too many facts. After all, everyone understands that here we are talking about...

[Goren, interrupting] Is this secret?

[Shamir] Certainly. Certainly there are some secret elements here, except for the things which I try to reveal without harming our ability to continue our activity. [In an interview with Shamir by political correspondent Arye Golan and moderator Hayim Zissowitz on Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1705 GMT on 31 December, Shamir says that Weizman's moves were reported by the "security services."]

[Goren] Were they really the PLO representative in Geneva and Ahmad al-Tibi?

[Shamir] I do not have to give names. He met with PLO representatives, he sent messages to Yasir 'Arafat and received messages from him. These are sufficient grounds for me. Moreover, he never denies this. He said: The prime minister, too, met with Jamil al-Tarifi. But what kind of a comparison is that?

[Goren] Minister Weizman totally denied these charges.

[Shamir] He did not. In his remarks in the Cabinet he did not deny even an iota of all the facts I mentioned. He redirected the discussion—and I can understand why—to the political aspect. What I say is that the argument is not over whether or not negotiations should be held with the PLO. The Cabinet decided not to conduct such negotiations, and this is binding on all the Cabinet members, including Minister Weizman. He says he is proud of bringing the argument again out into the open. I have no objection to a discussion, but Cabinet resolutions should apply to everyone.

[Goren] If that is so, why did you not summon him to lay the charges before him? After all, at issue is the dismissal of a minister. You never mentioned the accusations to him or heard his reaction.

[Shamir] Look, there are certain rules. I invited the vice prime minister according to the proper procedures and the accepted norms and told him what I had against what Minister Weizman was doing. I told him: Go and tell him that he should resign. I have no intention of offending him. I have nothing personal against Minister Weizman. Let him resign and we will then let sleeping dogs lie. He did not do that.

[Goren] He said it was not his job, but he also added that this contravenes the coalition agreement which stipulates that the dismissal of a minister requires the agreement of the vice prime minister.

[Shamir] Yes, we have already been through that. This happened also in previous cases several years ago, when Peres was prime minister and tried to dismiss Sharon and Moda'i. He said at that time that the coalition agreement cannot allow ministers to avoid observing the law. There is a law, clearly formulated, which authorizes the prime minister to dismiss ministers who do not act according to the law. And I took such action.

[Goren] Finally, sir, what will you tell those who contend that you actually sought an opportunity to withdraw from the government's peace initiative because the moment of truth has come; and that you actually preferred to clash with Weizman over a confrontation with Bush?

[Shamir] This is absurd, it is ridiculous. I just said explicitly that precisely now, when we are called upon to enter the political negotiations, it is precisely at this time that we must be united and adhere to our initiative and our principles. We have no chance of succeeding in these negotiations if there is among us a man whose sole purpose is to sabotage them.

[Goren] Does that mean that you will now go to a narrow-based government and elections?

[Shamir] I think there is no reason why the government should be disbanded. I believe that most of the Labor Party members who represent it in the Cabinet do not identify with and take issue with Weizman's ideas, certainly not with his moves. They are consequently under no obligation to express solidarity with him or defend him. They should therefore remain in the Cabinet, which must continue to function without Weizman.

[Goren] Thank you very much, Mr Prime Minister.

[Shamir] Thank you.

Shamir: Weizman 'Went Too Far'

TA3112165689 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1605 GMT 31 Dec 89

[Statement by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir on the dismissal of Science and Technology Minister 'Ezer Weizman—live from the Prime Minister's Office]

[Text] Good evening. I said today during the Cabinet session to my fellow ministers that I did not reach the decision to dismiss Minister Weizman lightly. After all, we all know how firmly I adhere to the preservation of the national unity government. Everyone knows how I abhor dissent, differences of opinion within the Cabinet, and squabbles. But this time things went too far.

True, there are differences of opinion even inside the Cabinet. But there is also a consensus which allows the government to continue to exist and is binding on all its members. The manifestation of that consensus is the peace initiative.

The government's peace initiative includes one substantial principle: No negotiations with the PLO. And yet here is a member of the Cabinet, even the Inner Cabinet, who not only refuses to accept the consensus and sees it as nonbinding, but even acts against the government's policy, behind the prime minister's back, hand-in-hand with our archenemy. He has been maintaining contacts with the PLO, guiding it on how to tackle our arguments, how to conduct their relations with the United States, and how to sabotage our moves—the moves of his own government, our government. How long can one tolerate such a state of affairs?

Had I kept silent, I would have been considered an accomplice to a major scandal.

I have been asked by friends: What will happen now? A crisis? Will the government be dissolved? I say: This is not necessary. I still hope that the majority of the Cabinet members belonging to the Labor Party will take issue with Minister Weizman's views and actions. They must therefore express their reservations about him and continue to serve in the national unity government without 'Ezer Weizman.

Meetings Had Peres' 'Consent'

TA3112181189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 31 Dec 89

[Text] It was learned this evening that Minister 'Ezer Weizman had indeed held contacts with PLO representatives; that these contacts continued until just a few days ago; and that they were held with the full knowledge and consent of Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres. Our correspondent Aharon Barne'a has learned that the talks focused on two issues: An attempt to persuade the PLO to accept the Baker plan, and a discussion on the composition of the Palestinian delegation for the dialogue with Israel.

Weizman Confirms Phoning Peres

TA0201060290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 2 Jan 90

[Telephone interview with 'Ezer Weizman, science and technology minister, by party affairs correspondent Shlomo Raz and moderator Razi Barqay—live]

[Text] [Barqay] Minister Weizman is on the line. Good morning, Minister Weizman.

[Weizman] Good morning.

[Barqay] What do you plan to do in the next few hours?

[Weizman] First of all, I would like to comment on what has been said today, such as my having sold Jerusalem, and a few other things. To this very minute, no one has spoken to me, no one has told me anything, and no one has shown me any material. The NRP [National Religious Party] people have seen various documents—I have no idea what they are based on. I think it is hutzpah and the most contemptible behavior imaginable.

[Barqay] Are you commenting on information quoted by the NRP ministers?

[Weizman] What do I know? Anyone can make up reports. These are the kinds of things I would like to see and hear myself. Today, 5 or 6 hours before the letter of resignation becomes valid, I have not seen one bit of the secret material. I have much to say about this kind of behavior. The radio said that there were two meetings: That is a base lie. I do not want to go into details, but in my opinion, it is all a maneuver to divert attention to something else. They are afraid to say that Elyaqim Rubinstein returned empty-handed from the United

States. They prefer to spar with the Alignment and to bury me, rather than talk with Baker or be buried by Bush.

[Raz] 'Ezer Weizman, when you received that phone call from al-Tibi, who was in Tunis—did you tell him to wait, and then called Shim'on Peres and asked him...

[Weizman, interrupting] Yes. The answer is yes.

[Raz] What did you ask Peres? What did he reply?

[Weizman] He told me: Listen, tell those guys to cut the crap and to accept the five points; if they want to add constraints, let them add constraints. The result of this was that the Egyptians received a more affirmative reply than we had anticipated. My contribution, therefore, was that the process invented by Shamir did have an affirmative reply, not a negative one. Therefore, I did contribute to the peace process, not otherwise.

[Barqay] Is the senior minister who, according to the Likud was a party to your move, Shim'on Peres?

[Weizman] I do not know; you will have to ask him. I do not deal in innuendo or suspicion. It seems that Mr Shamir is not out of the underground yet.

[Raz] What is your conclusion...

[Weizman, interrupting] One moment. I answered your question regarding the phone talk with Tunis; I answered about the second meeting in Geneva, which never took place. I was told about various names with whom I met: They are all lies and inventions. There was only that Arab with whom I met in the meeting with the Egyptians. The content of our conversation is recorded in the report. It does not have to be true; he can write anything he likes.

[Barqay] To the heart of the matter, Mr Weizman. Let us leave the content of the report and the charges against you. Did the things happen or not? Did you instruct people by saying: If you do this, they will agree to...

[Weizman, interrupting] My dear sir, I have not yet seen what it is all about. I was in touch with people—I have told you this—and in that famous phone call, I secured their acceptance of the five points. The fact that, as time went on, there were things some people did not like, is contemptible. At this point in time, they are beginning to plant information in the radio and the press about all kinds of things I have not seen. I have no idea on what grounds they were said.

True, I had occasional talks with Dr al-Tibi; this was done with the knowledge of all elements, including the Shin Bet, the head of the Shin Bet, and one of his aides. They knew perfectly well about these contacts. The vice prime minister also knew about them, as did Yitzhaq Rabin and other elements. Let them come out and say I am not telling the truth!

[Raz] You have said, Mr Weizman, that all the authorized elements in Israel knew about your contacts. Did the prime minister?

[Weizman] I do not know whether all authorized people did. The prime minister certainly knew, because otherwise the Shin Bet would not have been doing its job well. If the Shin Bet knew about it, why did it expose the affair now? Why did it not say anything earlier? Throughout all last year I was summoned by no one—neither by politicians nor by security people—to be told: Dear friend, your actions are out of line. Not a word was said.

[Raz] Minister Weizman, how then do you explain the fact that yesterday Minister Rabin, who, according to you, was aware of...

[Weizman, interrupting] Rabin said something halfheartedly—it was blown up too much—and afterward he told me: Listen, there is a certain report about you. I refuted it to him. Look, stop sowing dissent between Minister Rabin and myself.

[Barqay] We are not sowing dissent, we are simply trying to clarify the facts.

[Weizman] So I am telling you: He said something halfheartedly. I told him not to do it. He said: You know very well what is going on. After that he said nothing; on the contrary. He took me outside and asked me about that stupid thing: Did you hold the meeting in a room or the lobby? I proved to him my version by what my wife Re'uma remembers.

This whole method of dropping a bombshell from time to time—either on television or radio, as was done now—is in my opinion a terrible method, reminiscent of Kafka.

[Raz] What is the operative conclusion for the Labor Party, Minister Weizman?

[Weizman] If nothing happens, I will pack up my belongings in 1 hour and leave my office.

[Raz] What do you believe the Alignment will do?

[Weizman] I do not know. As of this moment, I have not been summoned to meet the prime minister.

[Barqay] Yes, yes, this is the big question: If you have not been summoned, what is the source of the reports about...

[Weizman] I do not know. Listen, I will repeat it again: I am concealing nothing. I have said: If there are unsavory things in the secret material, let them show them to me. I cannot either confirm or disprove things written in documents I have not seen.

[Barqay] But you do want to meet with the prime minister?

[Weizman] I do not want to meet with the prime minister. He may want to meet with me, but I don't feel like meeting with him. If he wants to see me, he should invite me.

[Barqay] Do you not want to explain yourself?

[Weizman] One moment; the prime minister is neither prosecutor nor judge. If the Shin Bet has charges against me, let them summon me. This, however, is not the question. The problem is that to this minute, 0715, the whole world is talking about something—including an invitation to the prime minister—which I have not been informed about. And in 30 minutes, I will be in my car on my way to my office.

[Raz] One more question, 'Ezer. Is it possible that you will resign of your own free will in order to...

[Weizman, interrupting] No.

[Raz] ...help the Labor Party...

[Weizman, interrupting] No. No. No one has asked me to do so; I do not know what it is all about. I am not ready to do things like that; it is crazy. No one has told me anything; I have heard nothing. All I know is what comes from the radio and newspapers. It is an absolutely crazy system. This is no way to treat a citizen, certainly not a Cabinet member.

[Barqay] I would like to make one more point clear. In all you have told us, one thing is still unclear. There are many things that are still unclear, but it is unclear whether, if the prime minister invites you to a meeting....[changes thought] You said: I don't feel like meeting with him.

[Weizman] One moment, one moment. If the prime minister invites me, I will come. But I am telling you, so far he has not invited me. If you ask me whether I want to see him, the answer is no! Is everything clear now?

[Barqay] Thank you very much, 'Ezer Weizman.

Peres on Phone Call From Tunis

TA0201062090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 2 Jan 90

[Telephone interview with Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres by Shalom Qital and party affairs correspondent Shlomo Raz—live]

[Text] [Qital] Good morning, Vice Prime Minister Peres.

[Peres] Good morning.

[Qital] You heard 'Ezer Weizman. Well, what can I say, I could ask many questions, so...

[Peres, interrupting] Before anything else, just let me quietly explain my position. Let us assume that a meeting between Weizman and Al-Ramlawi took place in June. Incidentally, I saw no material and I find it very strange that these documents are being disseminated between the leaders of all the parties, while I—who according to the coalition agreement should have seen such material—have not been shown it. So even if such a meeting took place, what would have been the natural thing to do? Summon 'Ezer Weizman and tell him: 'Ezer, we have some material against you in our possession—what do you have to say? Because it is quite possible that 'Ezer is right. This Arab, or PLO official, may have penned some stuff which are simply figments of his imagination. How can one—without any investigation, without showing the accused man what the allegations against him are, and without permitting him to respond—publicize the matter and spread it around, with everyone walking around and attacking 'Ezer or anyone else? How can you imagine such a thing?

So, not a word has been said since June. The material was not shown to Weizman. Theoretically, but not only theoretically, the whole thing could be cooked up, or simply inaccurate. Tell me if there is any democratic state where people act like this and are then so self-satisfied?

[Raz] Minister Peres...

[Peres, interrupting] Wait, let me finish please. This is not an interrogation, so listen for a few minutes and let me explain.

[Raz] Please continue.

[Peres] One matter has now been finished: the Al-Tibi affair. Al-Tibi is an Israeli Arab who was involved in some matters, including some issues that were not so terrible for the State of Israel. These were very delicate matters, and I would not like to get into details now. So let us assume that 'Ezer was in contact with him. So what? He is not a PLO member, he is an Israeli citizen; he enjoys freedom of movement and holds contacts with many other people.

[Raz] He called from Tunis.

[Peres] Excuse me?

[Raz] He telephoned from Tunis.

[Peres] So he called from Tunis, big deal.

[Raz] But Tunis is considered by Israeli elements...

[Peres, interrupting] Wait a minute, are you conducting an interrogation? What is so important about this? Neither you nor I are judges as to where people call from, if they telephone, and with whom they talk. This is the crux of the matter. Do you understand what you and the others are doing? You are conducting a public trial without allowing the defendant to see the allegations against him, without allowing him to respond or even guess. One party after another was summoned and shown incriminating material. An appearance was made on television in which the character of a man who was the Israeli Air Force commander and defense minister

was impinged. And good God, the man has not even seen the material against him. Whoever heard of such a thing? Do you consider this the way to hold an investigation—over the airwaves? I tell you, this cannot be done. It is inconceivable in any democratic country.

[Qital] Mr Peres...

[Peres, interrupting] Wait a minute. Just wait a minute. Some material exists; if it is incriminating it is dealt with through a judicial process. Legal experts know how such charges are handled. Just look at what has been taking place here for a week. A deadly blow has been inflicted on this man, while he has not even been shown anything. 'Ezer has to keep on guessing what he is being accused of. For example, whether he held a meeting in his room or in the lobby, whether he spoke or kept silent, whether he mentioned Jerusalem or not. The whole thing could be completely unfounded. I have seen cases in which severe judgments were handed down on the basis of supposedly incriminating material, and afterward the whole case collapsed. This kind of thing can be done to anyone else tomorrow. After all, the material is classified secret. The documents against 'Ezer were written by a man who may have other considerations guiding him. Perhaps to impress someone? How can anyone behave like this in a democratic country? Explain this to me! What is all the glee about?

[Qital] First of all, there is no glee. Second, these questions should be directed to the prime minister and not to us...

[Peres, interrupting] Excuse me, the questions are not to the prime minister—they apply to all of us and to a democratic regime. I am not only asking the prime minister. I ask myself as a citizen of this country, and I say that speaking for myself at least, I will never countenance such behavior.

[Qital] Mr Peres, what do you mean by not countenance? Let us say that the prime minister refuses to see 'Ezer Weizman, or will see him and insist that he resign—but 'Ezer refuses. Less than 6 hours are left—what will you do?

[Peres] First of all, if 'Ezer is fired without any investigation, that will legally incriminate him because there is a difference [changes thought]. Look, I would like to explain something to you: Assume that the prime minister summons a minister and tells him he is inefficient, and fires him. All right, this is not a criminal charge, it is not dangerous. But in this case, severe charges were leveled. How is this possible? With all due respect, can the prime minister appoint himself judge? So if the prime minister says that he has this or that complaint, so be it, but in this case for approximately 1 week we have been witness to—I would not like to use the word incitement—but awful propaganda. The only man yet to see the allegations is 'Ezer Weizman himself. He has been given no real chance to defend himself or explain—to explain, perhaps, that the whole thing is not true. And you know that even in much worse cases one enjoys the benefit of the doubt—and in this case it is doubtful if the benefit of the doubt is even necessary.

[Raz] Nevertheless, Defense Minister Rabin, your colleague in the Alignment leadership, yesterday said that the prime minister may have a case. And Rabin has seen the material.

[Peres] Yitzhaq Rabin, just like myself, feels that the matter demands an appropriate investigation. Anything is possible, of course, but that is not important. Does one condemn someone because something may be possible? This material must go through the correct legal procedures and 'Ezer should be given the chance to explain himself. What should be weighed against what? We have 'Ezer Weizman's testimony against al-Ramlawi's statements. Why should I believe al-Ramlawi more than 'Ezer Weizman?

[Qital] Mr Peres, this point is clear. With your permission I would like to sum things up and move from the public, theoretical side of the matter, to the complex but urgent political aspect. What will you do today?

[Peres] Listen, if 'Ezer ceases to be a member of the government, we will reach conclusions.

[Raz] In other words?

[Peres] I do not wish to say anything before the meeting of the Alignment Knesset faction. I will state my case there. I cannot imagine, however, and this is not just my personal affair but a matter of one of the basic principles of a democratic regime; and any man who holds democracy dear—starting from David Ben-Gurion who initiated the rule that ministers do not sit in judgment, that the prime minister is not a judge—that any man is innocent until proven guilty. This kind of public trial, which was held through the media and in all the papers for a week, with all of us pretending not to notice, is inconceivable. It is an extremely serious phenomenon.

[Qital] Thank you very much, Vice Prime Minister Peres.

Weizman's PLO Contact Named

TA3112145689 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 31 Dec 89

[Excerpts] [Nwsroom "correspondent" Gilat Levi] The mystery has been solved: Nabil Ramlawi, the head of the PLO office in Geneva, is the man with whom Minister Weizman held a meeting for which he was today fired from the Cabinet by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. Our party affairs correspondent Yaron Deqel has the details, and he is in the studio. Yaron, what is the information we have on this encounter?

[Deqel] Minister 'Ezer Weizman was in Geneva several weeks ago. He held a meeting there with Nabil al-'Arabi, President Mubarak's legal adviser, who was the middleman between Weizman and the head of the PLO office in Geneva, Nabil Ramlawi. The meeting took

place. The prime minister has learned about it, and because of this meeting he decided to fire Minister 'Ezer Weizman. This afternoon he handed Weizman his letter of dismissal.

[Levi] Following this dismissal letter and the coalition crisis that has erupted, are there any new developments?

[Deqel] Two things have happened: One is that efforts are being made by the SHAS [Torah Observing Sepharadim] Movement to mediate in this crisis. Absorption Minister Yitzhaq Peretz met Minister 'Ezer Weizman after the Cabinet meeting. Minister Peretz later said that he was encouraged by this meeting. This indicates that SHAS is already beginning to mediate between the Alignment and the Likud in an attempt to solve this crisis. These are of course only initial contacts.

The other development, which will probably not take place today, is that Prime Minister Shamir has asked for an audience with Agudat Yisra'el Knesset members, who are not members of the coalition, as is well known. The prime minister wanted to brief them on his action. The meeting will probably not take place today because the Agudat Yisra'el members cannot make it. It is an interesting move by the prime minister, in any case. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1400 GMT on 31 December adds: "Rabbi Moshe Ze'ev Feldman, Agudat Yisra'el Knesset faction chairman, said that the government crisis causes no concern for his movement—quite the contrary. According to Rabbi Feldman, this government has no right to exist, and his faction intends to submit a no-confidence motion because of the massive desecration of the Sabbath in Jerusalem yesterday."]

[Levi] We have a comment by Muhammad Basyuni, Egyptian ambassador in Israel, who this afternoon expressed deep regret at the decision to dismiss Minister Weizman. Touring Kefar Tavor, Basyuni said that Weizman is a symbol of the profound and friendly relations between Israel and Egypt. He is a personal friend of mine, and I was surprised to hear of the decision to dismiss him, he said. Our correspondent in the north, Menahem Horowitz, reports that in reply to a question, Basyuni said that he hopes that following the resumption of ties with Syria, that country will take part in the peace process in our region.

Details of Talks With Al-Tibi

TA0101075190 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 1 Jan 90 p 1

[Report by political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Excerpt] The messages relayed by 'Ezer Weizman to Yasir 'Arafat via Dr Ahmad al-Tibi made a considerable contribution to the PLO's decision to soften the wording of its response to Baker's five points. Upon his return from Tunis, Al-Tibi related how he had entreated PLO leaders to refrain from rejecting the elections initiative. The head of the Shin Bet reported to Prime Minister Shamir on Al-Tibi's mission. Shamir, who had hoped that the PLO would provide a negative reply to Baker's five points, thereby ending the U.S.-PLO dialogue, responded with anger. Ten days ago, Israeli sources leaked to THE ECONOMIST details of the Al-Tibi-PLO contacts, which had been allegedly conducted on Peres' instructions. Peres, who must have known about Al-Tibi's errand, denied the report.

The Shin Bet, which was aware of Al-Tibi's visits to Tunis, took no measures against him, although it was plain that Al-Tibi's contacts were against the law. About 1 year ago, foreign press reported that Al-Tibi had negotiated between Israel and the PLO on humanitarian issues, mainly POW exchanges. Knowledgeable sources in Jerusalem said yesterday that Al-Tibi was active in this sphere until last week, but that the Shin Ben found out that, in his talks with PLO leaders, he had also relayed messages from Weizman, which focused on attempts to persuade them to adhere to the political process, and which contained a promise that, if the Likud foils the moves, the Alignment will bring about a political showdown. [passage omitted]

'Agreement' on PLO Delegation

TA0101062790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 1 Jan 90

[Text] Our Arab affairs correspondent Aharon Barne'a says that in the talks Minister 'Ezer Weizman held through mediators and with Vice Prime Minister Peres' knowledge an agreement in principle was reached on the composition of the Palestinian delegation for the dialogue with Israel. According to the report, the PLO will agree to a delegation that would include Palestinian representatives from outside the territories who bear foreign passports, probably European. Our correspondent was told that the United States does not object to Palestinian representatives holding a U.S. passport.

'Confrontation' With U.S. Possible

TA0101105290 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 1 Jan 90 pp A1, 2

[Report by Ilan Bakhar, Menahem Rahat, and Shefi Gabay]

[Excerpts] At the beginning of December, a senior Shin Bet official met with Minister 'Ezer Weizman and asked him to confirm the reports received at the Shin Bet alleging that Minister Weizman had relayed messages to and received messages from 'Arafat through Dr al-Tibi.

MA'ARIV has learned that, in the course of the conversation with the Shin Bet man, Minister Weizman did not deny the dispatch of messages, although he noted that the messages are beneficial to the peace process and serve Israel's interests. [passage omitted]

[Reporting on the dismissal of Minister Weizman, Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 1 January,

in a page 3 report by Roni Shaqed, adds: "In his last message to Yasir 'Arafat several weeks ago, Weizman asked the PLO to prepare a propaganda brochure intended for the Israeli public that would explain the changes in the PLO's stands clearly and coherently. The message was sent through an intermediary. This was reported last night by an East Jerusalem source who was one of the Palestinian personages who had participated in consultations toward a compilation of the said brochure." The report adds that "Weizman suggested that the brochure be printed in Hebrew and disseminated in Israel."]

The information regarding 'Ezer Weizman's involvement in dispatching messages to and receiving messages from Yasir 'Arafat was obtained in the course of the Shin Bet's routine activities, which include routine surveillance of prominent Palestinian notables. In an interview with the Voice of Israel, the prime minister said that Weizman's activity had been exposed by the Shin Bet. [passage omitted]

Sources in Jerusalem have said that the prime minister made the decision to fire Weizman after he realized that the agreements reached by Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein with the State Department in Washington are likely to bring about a confrontation with the United States, which has rejected Israel's requests on significant issues, such as East Jerusalem Arabs' voting rights and other issues. Shamir, who—until Rubinstein's trip to Washington—had hoped to evade an open confrontation with the United States, realized that an open crisis with Washington over the political process would erupt within 4 to 6 weeks. Therefore, he decided to make a preemptive move by shifting the action to the internal Likud-Alignment arena. [passage omitted]

No-Confidence Vote Set for 3 Jan

TA0101174590 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1700 GMT 1 Jan 90

[Report by Knesset correspondent Dov Gilhar]

[Excerpts] The political crisis gained momentum during the past hour. Right now all eyes are riveted to two foci and times. The first venue is the Prime Minister's Office, and the time is 1300 tomorrow. The question is whether Yitzhaq Shamir will revoke the dismissal of Minister 'Ezer Weizman. If he does not—and right now no solution can be seen—attention will focus on the Knesset building where, on Wednesday afternoon, the no-confidence votes will be held.

Shim'on Peres informed Degel Hatora this evening that if Minister Weizman is not reinstated, the Alignment will vote against the government en mass. The Alignment today tried to advance the no-confidence votes and reschedule them for tomorrow so that it could respond to Shamir on Weizman's ouster by voting against the government at the same time. Knesset Speaker Dov Shilansky did not cooperate in this matter, and let us recall that he is a Likud member. He refused to accede to the Alignment's request, citing protocol and procedure.

The two men, Peres and Shamir, are making great efforts to persuade the religious parties to vote one way or the other—depending on the side exerting influence. The Knesset will vote on Agudat Yisra'el's no-confidence motion against the backdrop of the police operations in Jerusalem during the demonstration Saturday; as well as on the motions submitted by MAPAM [United Workers Party], HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality], and Shinuy over Weizman's ouster.

The National Religious Party [NRP] decided this evening not to side with Agudat Yisra'el. It will vote for the government. The positions of SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] and Degel Hatora as they will be manifested on Wednesday are not known. The prime minister asked Agudat Yisra'el to postpone the submittal of its motion, but it has not yet responded to his request.

Thus, everyone is awaiting Wednesday here at the Knesset.

The prime minister presented the religious parties with the Shin Bet material on Minister Weizman's contacts with the PLO. According to one participant in the meetings, the Shin Bet reports include a Weizman request to arrange a meeting with Yasir 'Arafat. The NRP claims that this material appears to be serious. [passage omitted]

And what did the prime minister say during those meetings? I did not take this action for political reasons. I only wanted to stop this madness from snowballing, which is becoming more and more dangerous. Yitzhaq Shamir said: When going into tough negotiating, I was troubled by the thought of how to do that in the absence of a sense of ministerial responsibility, which translates into the obligation of all the government members to adhere to its binding resolutions. Arguments may be held at home, said Shamir; but to the outside world, only positions on behalf of the Cabinet's decisions may be presented.

This, then, is a summary of the prime minister's meetings with the religious parties today. The NRP says that from its content the material seems serious and grave. After their meeting with the prime minister, the NRP ministers asked for a meeting here in the Knesset with Minister 'Ezer Weizman.

In view of the disclosure of the Shin Bet material to the religious parties, Alignment Faction Chairman Hayim Ramon appealed to the attorney general, asking him whether it was legal for the prime minister to convey secret security material—this is the prime minister's description—to the religious parties for political reasons that are not directly related to the issue.

Arens on Egyptian-Syrian Rapprochement, Weizman

TA0101193390 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 1 Jan 90

[Interview with Foreign Minister Moshe Arens by Shlomo Ganor in Arens' office on 1 January—recorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Text] [Ganor] Does the increasingly growing unity within the Arab world, as exemplified by the rapprochement between Egypt and Syria, serve Israel's political and security interests, in your opinion?

[Arens] I hope so but I cannot be sure. We know that Syria wants to end its isolation, and to serve that aim it is prepared to rehabilitate its relationship with Egypt. We know that Egypt is exerting efforts to establish its role as the leader of the Arab world; therefore it would also like improved relations with Syria and with Libya. Now we will see whether as a result of this the Syrians manage to pull Egypt from the path of peace and toward greater hostility toward Israel, or as I hope, things will go the opposite way: That the Egyptians will succeed in drawing both the Syrians and the Libyans in the direction of peace with Israel.

[Ganor] Sir, regarding the current government crisis between the Alignment and the Likud—do you feel that this matter could have a detrimental effect on the peace process?

[Arens] I do not think so. On the contrary, I believe that it is difficult for me as a foreign minister to handle the peace process or to conduct negotiations on behalf of the State of Israel and to protect Israel's interests when within the government there sits a minister who does not accept the government's resolutions and constantly subverts its decisions.

[Ganor] You described politics as a mine field. Do you think that the government will manage to survive this mine field we are talking about?

[Arens] I hope so. I see no reason to get stuck in this mine field. The principle that a government minister must be loyal to the government decisions and is forbidden to work against them is not a principle espoused only by the Likud. I consider it a principle of any viable administration and one that is also endorsed by the Alignment.

Shamir on Syria, Unity Government, Elections

TA3012094289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0805 GMT 30 Dec 89

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by political correspondent Arye Golan; date and place not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Golan] Mr Prime Minister, 1989 is ending in great changes in the East bloc. Do you believe that the wall of Arab hostility will also fall when the world around is going through such great changes as the current decade reaches its end?

[Shamir] I believe that the wall of hostility will fall one day. I do not think, however, that this must follow the events that have happened and are happening in East Europe. The conditions and populations are completely different. They have a different history and background. Nonetheless, let us hope that the great changes we have witnessed in East Europe—changes toward greater democracy and freedom—someday take place in the Middle East as well.

[Golan] You say that the circumstances and conditions are different. There is, however, one man—named Gorbachev—who is responsible, to a certain extent, for what is happening in East Europe. Here, in our region, Syria is a major USSR protege. Should we not expect Syrian moderation in view of the events in the world?

[Shamir] Look, the USSR is indeed Syria's ally. But, under no circumstances does it rule Syria or determine its moves. It may have a certain influence. We know that there is some concern and unrest in Syria and other Arab countries in light of the events in East Europe and the USSR. There is one thing that should be clearly understood: It is possible that someday the changes will take place in Syria as well. We remember a different Syria from the past. The Syria that we see today has not changed and is not going to change in the next few days.

[Golan] Looking toward the future, do you believe that in 1990 there will be elections in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, or is this whole move stuck and is even the tripartite foreign ministers' meeting not to take place in the near future?

[Shamir] I would very much hope that 1990 will witness progress on our peace initiative and turn it into a reality. Still, it does not entirely depend on us. To implement this initiative, we need the cooperation of the Arab population in the areas of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. At present we do not see any such readiness on their part to cooperate with us in implementing our peace initiative—and we must not forget that it is ours and nobody else's initiative or plan. The United States has agreed to help us implement the initiative. It is trying hard and doing its best. The Americans, so it would seem, cannot convince the Arab residents of these areas to cooperate with us in the framework of the initiative. Still, they are trying. I believe that meetings and discussions will take place, and attempts will be made to promote it. Let us hope.

[Golan] Your deputy, Shim'on Peres, has said that there is no point in making an issue of insisting on the participation of the two deportees in the delegation or of whether or not the Palestinian delegation will be allowed to make one or two opening statements. He says that we are insisting on unimportant issues. What do you say to that?

[Shamir] The most important factor is the PLO's desire to rule the Arab stage and the Palestinian world—to be the sole speaker and ruler. The PLO is not at all considering being a partner to the Israeli peace initiative. We have clearly stated in our peace initiative that it is not about negotiations with the PLO. This is the major obstacle.

[Golan] There are obstacles here at home too. Disagreements between the Likud and the Alignment exist. Last week, you said that the Tabah model would not be repeated. Does this mean that you envision elections in 1990?

[Shamir] Disagreements have always existed and will remain. The truth of the matter is that, despite them, a unity government has existed for the past 5 years. I hope that we will be able to maintain it. At the same time, it should be assumed that each side will insist on its principles. What we in the Likud are saying is, in fact, that we insist on the very principles stipulated and accepted by the entire government. [passage omitted]

'Authorized' Source Says Panamanian in Country

TA3112084389 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 31 Dec 89 pp A1, 2

[Excerpts] An authorized Israeli source confirmed last night: Mike Harari, who is believed to have been ousted Panama ruler Manuel Noriega's senior aide, is in Israel. Harari's relatives were willing to say merely: "We are completely calm. Mike is in a safe place." Conversely, other sources claimed that as far as they know, Harari has not arrived in Israel yet.

It has been learned that the Americans had not held Harari even for a single moment, although they knew precisely where he was staying and would have, therefore, been able to detain him. As far as it is known, he was delayed for interrogation by U.S. officers in Panama, where he was asked to answer questions pertaining to his job as Noriega's adviser. In addition, he was requested to supply information about his employer's illegal activities.

MA'ARIV has learned that the Americans enabled Harari to reach Israel, after obtaining Israel's promise to put him at their disposal if they decide to interrogate him. High-ranking diplomatic efforts—by high echelons at the Israeli Justice Ministry, among others—were responsible for getting Harari out of Panama. One of the goals of the speedy extrication was preempting extradition demands by various elements outside the United States. [passage omitted]

The Prime Minister's Office and the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem have said that Harari is a private citizen, but reliable sources in these offices disclosed that his activities in recent years had been endorsed by the appropriate Israeli elements. Harari had made connections in Panama, which helped him to form similar contacts in additional Latin American counties; by these activities, he contributed to Israel's defense exports to these countries.

Various foreign sources said last night that one of Manuel Noriega's family members visited Israel in recent days, but this report has not been confirmed by any official Israeli source. [passage omitted]

[In a similar report in Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 31 December on pages 1 and 6 by political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar, special correspondent in Panama Yo'av Qarni, and Eytan Rabin, adds: "Mike Harari, former Panamanian President Manuel Noriega's senior adviser, crossed the Panamanian borders last Wednesday and arrived in Israel on Friday. When the United States advised Israel that its forces in Panama had Harari in their custody, he was already outside that country's frontiers. This report has been confirmed by authorized defense sources."

[The report adds that "Israel will not extradite Mike Harari to the United States even if requested. Authorized political sources said this yesterday in Jerusalem. According to the sources, this attitude is because of Israeli law and Harari's service in the Mosad. The sources stressed that they do not believe the United States will demand Harari's extradition, being aware that Israel cannot respond favorably to a similar request."

[The report further states: "In view of the fact that Harari, as a former Mosad agent, possesses many sensitive state secrets, the report of his possible extradition to the Panamanian administration (as published) has caused nervousness among Israeli security circles."]

[Tel Aviv IDF in Hebrew at 0830 GMT on 31 December adds: "Knowledgeable elements have again confirmed that Mike Harari is in Israel. The sources, who wished to remain anonymous, said that he is safe, and that the affair has been blown out of proportion."]

Reportage on Vote of Confidence Debate, Outcome

Deputy Questions Badran Wealth

JN3112120889 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 31 Dec 89 pp 2, 3

["Text" of speech by Deputy Dr Ahmad 'Uwayd al-'Abbadi at the House of Representatives in Amman on 30 December in reply to the government statement delivered by Prime Minister Mudar Badran on 19 December]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] First of all, a truly qualified team is required to implement what came in the government policy statement. Let us begin with you, the prime minister-designate: You assumed the post of the chief of the Intelligence Department when it was at its peak; you had the upper hand when you were the prime minister; and you were the trusted adviser when you were the chief of the court. This means you were the decision-maker throughout these long years. Through reading your history, your future can be predicted in light of your past when you assumed all these posts and in light of your biography.

Moreover, the circumstances that removed Zayd al-Rifa'i are similar to those that led to your downfall when you were in his post. Each of you said you were seeking the interest of Jordan and the Jordanian people. Under this slogan, the homeland and the people suffered.

Mr Prime Minister, people are stronger than governments; their rage is stronger than guns and tanks; their satisfaction is better than threats and arrests; their love is bigger than hard currency and dollars; history is stronger than individuals; writing makes history; and thinking is the source of writing. If God forgives and has mercy on people, people do not forgive and history neither forgives nor has mercy. Therefore, we ask about important events in the history of the prime minister-designate, events that have become milestones. We want satisfactory answers to prevent what is being said in secret. Among these issues are the following:

The people are asking, and they have the right to ask, about the circumstances surrounding your ownership of land in al-Nu'ayyimah, on the circular highway between al-Zarqa and al-Ramtha, in the Jarash area and the valley and woodlands surrounding it, and the lands of the Science and Technology University, which Zayd al-Rifa'i preferred to name this way to obliterate the Islamic name of al-Yarmuk—although it should be called the University of Abu-'Ubaydah or Khalid Bin-al-Walid for the heroes of the al-Yarmuk battle.

Mr Prime Minister-designate, I hoped you would set an example for others so we would feel you are honest in what you say, and show what is yours and what is not yours, the money you own and its source, your role in the suffering and tribulation to which Jordan has reached, and your readiness to accept an investigation if it reaches you. [passage omitted]

We now come to your ministerial team, which comprises a number of excellent figures known for their honesty and hard work. We hoped the bright picture would be completed to overcome the difficulties and the ordeal from which the homeland and people are suffering. We hoped the team would be made up of strong and qualified people who could convince the people with their clean and honest past and their capable personalities, as well as to enjoy the people's love and attain the level of the confidence placed in them by the beloved king, the people, and the homeland.

The people ask and have the right to ask: Do any of your ministers carry non-Jordanian citizenship and have foreign protection? What are the relations of kinship and friendship between some of them and you? Many questions are raised by people who describe the government in general and some ministers in particular in terms we refuse to repeat here.

The people are saying: Some ministers have become an Islamic estate that cannot be changed and which merely is brought out and dusted off from time to time, thus undermining the people's confidence in successive governments and their decisions. The people also are saying: The developments must be dealt with, people's desires must not be ignored, and ministers at whom fingers of accusation always are pointed must not be imposed on the people.

The modest qualification of a minister is that he must be decent and of good conduct. The question is: Does your team have these qualities?

Mr Prime Minister and honorable colleagues, let us discuss what has happened in the past few days, specifically regarding two issues: concessions and delegations. Regarding concessions, these have exceeded their limit until they have become cheap. Everything that exceeds its limit eventually turns against itself. How can you wrench away the dignity of the Army and treat any attack on it as a normal crime? Is not destroying the fortress the best way to destroy its guardians? How can the country continue while the regime is dwarfing and defeating the Army, general security, and intelligence service, thus giving saboteurs, conspirators, and spies a free hand to implant corruption in our country for which we and the sons of our homeland will pay the price?

Can attacking the state and its institutions be the same as attacking a lost cat or stray goat?

I previously asked for purifying the intelligence service of all defects. I stand by my opinion and demands, not desiring to slight them, but desiring the country's interests remain strong and clean and that it performs its duty according to the constitution and law. But an issue of great danger to the nation, regime, and state is that the designated prime minister concedes their role, the role of the security apparatus, Army, and the dignity of the employees in these institutions. If the tamperers and corrupt see the watchful eye has been removed, then we shall not sleep peacefully and there will be an upheaval in

the security chain. We ask God to protect the country from falling into this trap, which will lead to a crisis that could explode at any moment.

If we move on to discuss delegations which frequented the Prime Ministry, this arouses many queries from the people on the reasons for these delegations and who prompted them to come so late, yet before a decision was taken by the deputies representing them. People have posed big questions about the justifications, reasons and who prompted them to do what they did. [passage omitted]

In the final analysis, I find the government statement did not respond to demands by groups and classes of Jordanians who do not have privileges. The demands are represented in the following points, which I hope will be taken into special consideration. The people otherwise will be infuriated with false promises, high prices, low salaries, and difficult living circumstances—something which threatens us:

1. Form a national salvation government to save the country from increasing deterioration. If this deterioration does not stop, it will push the country toward something we pray to God will not occur.

2. Form a national investigation committee in which the House of Representatives will participate effectively to investigate all circumstances that led to the country's debts, fragmentation, leniency, alienation among many of its people, and its lack of concern; punish officials responsible for these affairs and give justice to their oppressed victims. These are issues that could affect those who have responsibility and those who do not.

3. Apply shari'a, starting with morality, media, education, ending with the laws, economy, and the general way of life, so Islam can take its place as a doctrine and system of life.

4. Deal with high prices in a way compatible with the value of the Jordanian dinar exchange rate and strike greedy merchants and black market dealers with an iron fist.

5. Raise salaries of the government, public and military institution employees and pensioners, as well as those working in private institutions.

6. Remove from state organs corrupt people and those with marred histories.

7. Reorganize the Jordanian house and administrative and political life based on honesty, ability, loyalty, belonging, and the extent of giving to this country and its people.

In conclusion, I would like to state that one of God's blessings is that Jordan was granted a wise leadership under His Majesty King Husayn, who is the symbol of balance, stability, and continuity on the march to overcome challenges and difficulties with the cooperation of its loyal people. We ask God to preserve Jordan and its people, grant a long life to King Husayn, and strengthen him and his honorable family. I ask the designated prime minister to answer all my questions before he hears what I and the people have to say.

Qirrish Assails Badran

JN3112132589 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 31 Dec 89 pp 9, 10

["Text" of speech delivered by Deputy Ya'qub Qirrish at the House of Representatives in Amman on 30 December in reply to the government statement delivered by Prime Minister Mudar Badran on 19 December]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] The ministerial statement presented the government's policy to cancel martial laws and deal with their effects. We hoped the government would immediately cancel all these laws, except those concerning the occupation, and allow all who wish to appeal against a ruling by these courts to prove their right—ignored in the past—to go back to the regular courts.

Whoever follows and scrutinizes the lists of names of the political detainees finds that most of them are Palestinian revolution youths, doing their utmost to liberate the land of the Muslims, Palestine. This means security organs have tried to create the image of a bad security situation to justify their full-force strikes at anyone of liberal or opposing ideas. They also have done this to draw a black picture of reality; preserve their gains and privileges; set up barriers between the head of state, people, and advisers; remain the only power drawing the situation's picture as it wishes; and perpetuate fear, caution, mistrust, and lack of confidence in the way the leading force deals with those of differing opinion.

It also is very important to issue legislation that forbids arrest under any circumstance—except by a judicial and civil order and over a crime stipulated by the legislature—to stop infiltration of influential powers and preserve the citizen's freedoms and sanctities.

Adherence to the application of the constitution, its text and spirit, obliges the government to present a draft law cancelling all amendments of the constitution in Article No 73, where the ruling system is an inherited parliamentary monarchy. Parliamentary elections are a constitutional right of the people which cannot removed or stopped. They let the people participate in running the country.

All reforms, freedoms, and promises are meaningless if the people are not the source of authority and if they do not have the right to participate in the rule—a right that will not be ignored, pushed aside, or lightly taken.

Honorable gentlemen, what does it mean when the power to refrain from calling for general elections because of circumstances beyond control is not abolished? Does it mean this is a sword of Damocles hovering over this house to bluntly tell it if you do not do as we wish, we still have the right to remove you and your people from the rule? The power to declare a state of

emergency, martial law, and pushing people aside still is in our hands. As for the excuse that there are circumstances beyond our control, the call for elections—which has occurred—proves circumstances beyond our control have disappeared.

Therefore, the government first is asked to give the people back their sovereignty and effective participation in it and to issue an election law with no conditions on the true representation of the people's authority. [passage omitted]

The successive governments' support for the Palestinian people and the PLO, their sole legitimate representative, should not be understood as the highest required limit. The Palestine question is an Islamic pan-Arab issue, and none are allowed to relinquish an iota of it. All shoulder responsibility for this issue, and the decision to disengage should stop at its political end and not go beyond it.

The government should view the previous administrations' arrest of youths involved in military operations against the Zionist enemy on the soil of their country, which resulted from deterioration of the Arab situation, in a new perspective. The government should support this revolution within its political and military means, at least by not arresting youths upon their safe return, or by handing them over to their Palestinian organizations instead of sending them to Jordanian prisons.

Attention should be given to supporting the intifadah through the continuous mobilization of the news media, promoting common sentiments among the one people in Jordan and Palestine, facilitating all that is needed to the young people and families for the sake of preserving their cohesion and paying tribute to their struggle. This will be a new defeat [to Israel] following division and fragmentation.

Promoting the spirit of jihad will defeat the spirit of Zionist extremism and free us from the spirit of prevarication, which has continued for many years. Turning our people into a trained and armed nation is necessary to stop the spirit of aggression and arrogance which dominated the Jewish mentality. This only can be done by developing confidence between citizen and ruler. A government declaration that it is committed to an intensive military economic program is the basis for obtaining the people's confidence, as well as history's acquittal, and for getting out of the labyrinth of humiliation, loss, and downfall. [passage omitted]

The government has not declared frankly its intention to approach Islam. It therefore is required to state explicitly and clearly it is committed to march ahead toward Islam in terms of education, information, orientation, legislation, and government.

Finally, is the government-designate under Mudar Badran—who was a member of past governments—a government of change, freedoms, production, and a one of preserving public funds? Is the government of the intelligence department's man—this is how he is known—and a prime minister who used martial law extensively a government of freedoms? Is the government of a prime minister who received aid and loans of about 7 billion [currency not specified] a remedy for the economic crisis?

We need a true national government committed to the nation's causes—a government capable of obtaining the people's confidence. The people have reached a crossroads from which they only can be delivered by a true leadership and a basic decision by the country's leader. In the same manner as the decision to restore parliamentary life, let there be a decision to form an honest national government. [passage omitted]

Badran Faces Criticism

JN3112081589 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 31 Dec 89 pp 1, 2

[By JORDAN TIMES staff]

[Text] Amman—The Lower House of Parliament Saturday plunged into one of its most important tasks of taking a confidence vote in the government, with 19 deputies airing their views—ranging from mild "reservations" to scathing criticism—of the executive authorities' programme of action outlined to the House by Prime Minister Mudar Badran.

As the House adjourned the session Saturday evening to resume early Sunday, there appeared to be little dent in predictions that Badran would secure the vote of confidence from the 80-member assembly despite some of the harshest criticism ever aired in the domed parliament chambers.

Observers and deputies said following the session that the chances of Badran securing the required vote remained strong.

They said that the House's mood was influenced by the fiery speeches of some deputies who, while essentially making the same points and demands, resorted to "personal attacks" against Badran. Even some who said they would not vote in favour of the government expressed resentment that "political issues were reduced to personal vendettas."

"I might now change my mind and vote in favour of Badran, if only because of the venomous personal attacks," said one deputy, who insisted on anonymity.

The majority of the 19 deputies who addressed the nine-hour session on Saturday hailed Jordan's liberalisation drive but called for a complete removal of martial law, release of all political prisoners, investigation into government corruption and a permanent halt to what was described as security excesses.

Observers and some deputies believe that the criticism directed against the government would influence the final voting but expected Badran to come out the winner in the voting process, expected to be held sometime

Sunday evening. Twenty-one more deputies have registered their names to air their comments on the government programme.

The main focus of criticism by a number of deputies, including Islamists and former officials, was the performance of Badran during his two earlier terms as prime minister and his background as head of the General Intelligence Department. What appeared to be deliberately downplayed in the barrages was the measures that the Badran government has already announced in the way of striking political concessions as the forerunner for full democratic life in the Kingdom.

However, many observers also interpreted the wide range of "reservations" raised by deputies Saturday as a reflection of the emerging political trends following the country's first general elections in 22 years held last November.

In a sign of the government's commitment to openness and tolerance, the state-owned JORDAN NEWS AGENCY, PETRA, carried long excerpts from deputies' speeches, some of which included attacks against the government. Although government-run television and radio did not broadcast some "critical parts" of the comments, deputies declaring their refusal to give the government the vote of confidence and the audience applause in response to such declarations were broadcast on television.

The session was attended by some 700 spectators, many of whom had staked positions outside the gates of the parliament house as early as 7 a.m. to secure a seat inside the chambers.

Applause and whistling interrupted the speeches of many deputies despite repeated calls by Speaker Sulayman 'Arar for audience discipline.

The loudest applause was accorded to the most outspoken critics of the government and who called on Badran to stop "the interference in citizens' daily lives" by the General Intelligence Department.

More than 100 people, including women and children, demonstrated in front of the parliament gates demanding the release of prisoners convicted of political offences. Last month, the government released a number of political detainees but according to activists more than 65 people are still behind bars; most of them already tried and convicted.

The barrage of criticism began with Amman Deputy Ahmad 'Uwayd al-'Abbadi, an ex-police officer. He contended that former Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, who was forced to resign in April this year in the face of popular protests, and Badran were "the two sides of the same coin." However, Al-'Abbadi stood out as the lone speaker who criticised what he described as Badran's moves to "dilute the authority of the security forces, the General Intelligence Department and the Armed Forces."

Other sharp attacks against Badran were levelled by Irbid Deputy Dhuqan al-Hindawi, who resigned last September from his post as Royal Court Chief to run for Parliament, and Amman Deputy Ya'qub Qirrish an independent Islamist.

Al-Hindawi, who served as deputy prime minister under Al-Rifa'i, charged that Badran, who served two terms as prime minister during the period 1976-1984, bears a considerable share of the responsibility for the country's foreign debt.

Al-Hindawi gave what he said were figures to show that Badran also had borrowed from external sources to finance public spending and ill-fated development projects.

According to Al-Hindawi, Jordan had a foreign debt of $9.76 billion at the end of 1988.

Badran had borrowed over $3.7 billion during his two terms, he said.

According to Al-Hindawi, the Al-Rifa'i government had borrowed $4.4 billion and had spent $3 billion in debt servicing.

The Irbid deputy named several major development projects whose costs had exceeded initial estimates after they were implemented under Badran.

Referring to a government stipulation, in a bid to eliminate corruption, that every senior government official has to account for his assets before and after assuming office, Al-Hindawi said the precondition was effective only for the present and future. Saying that "corruption was part of Jordanian life" for the past 20 years, he asked whether wealthy officials could be required to explain how they had acquired such fortunes.

Casting doubts on the "credibility of the government's programme" Al-Hindawi declared that he was withholding his vote of confidence in the Badran cabinet, which was formed earlier this month to replace the interim government of Al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir who took over from Al-Rifa'i and saw the country through the Nov. 8 elections.

The Muslim Brotherhood and its Islamist sympathisers who have emerged as the strongest bloc in the House appeared divided over whether to give Badran the vote of confidence. However, al-Balqa' Deputy 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat, speaking on behalf of a 20-member group comprising committed Muslim brothers and independent sympathisers, demanded that Badran pledge to implement a stricted [as published] application of Shari'a, a total abolition of martial law and the return of public officials fired from their jobs for "political reasons" as well as restriction on the sale of alcohol.

Amman Deputy Qirrish questioned Badran's ability to head a new government. "Is it possible for a former intelligence man to head a democratic government?"

asked Qirrish, who has said earlier that he was detained for six months in 1985 during the rule of Al-Rifa'i.

Other speakers during Saturday's session included Nawwaf al-Khawalidah (al-Mafraq), Nadir al-Zuhayrat (Irbid), Salamah al-Ghuwayri (al-Zarqa'), Faysal Ibn-Jazi (southern tribes), 'Abd-al-Salam Furayhat ('Ajlun), Nayif al-Hadid (Amman), 'Awni al-Bashir (al-Balqa'), Muhammad al-'Alawinah (Irbid), Jamal al-Sarayirah, Nayif Abu-Tayih (southern tribes), 'Ata Shahwan (Amman), Husni al-Shayyab (Irbid), Muhammad Huwaymil (al-Karak) and Samir Qa'war (al-Balqa').

Most of the comments dealt with the economic situation, agriculture and issues related to infrastructure, farmers credits and problems, education as well as health care, but none of the deputies made it clear whether they would vote for the government or not. But it was believed that most of them would.

Al-Shayyab specifically referred to the defence law of 1939 and called for a quick repeal of the law.

'Arabiyat said the 20-member group he represented had informed Badran earlier that they would "cooperate with a strong, clean government." He described the government as "much below the level of our aspirations and the aspirations of our people."

However, he said that the group was willing to give the confidence vote to Badran provided that the government pledges stricter enforcement of Islamic laws, a definite date for lifting martial law—in force in the country since 1967—reinstatement of civil servants who sere dismissed for 'security reasons' and curbs on sales of alcoholic beverages as well as increased backing for the intifada in the occupied territories.

Speech Stricken From Minutes

JN0101130790 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 1 Jan 90

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] For the 3d day running the longest vote of confidence session in Jordan's parliamentary life continues in the spotlight, and political life remains at a standstill pending the outcome.

While the thrust of some deputies' speeches, notably the one by former Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri, emphasized building the country's political, economic, and social future, as well as streamlining the media, other legislators hurled official and personal accusations. The debate heated up when Shaykh 'Abd-al-Mun'im Abu-Zant charged that a third of the House membership represents desert and dunes, stirring resentment of deputies for Jordan's bedouin tribes. Abu-Zant subsequently publicly apologized, and House Speaker Sulayman 'Arar decided to strike Abu-Zant's speech from the minutes to avert regional differences.

Of the 80 deputies, 8 withheld confidence in Badran's government. Meanwhile, 29 legislators, including the Islamic bloc deputies, stated the government first will have to meet their demands before they give it their vote of confidence.

Vote Hinges on Muslim Brotherhood

JN0101095090 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 1 Jan 90 pp 1, 3

[By Lamis K. Andoni, JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Text] Amman—As the Lower House of Parliament continued its session Sunday on the programme of the government of Mudar Badran, indications emerged that chances of the government securing a vote of confidence appeared to hinge on the final position of the Muslim Brotherhood, which controls the strongest bloc in the legislative authority.

Three deputies, including two Islamists and one leftist, said they were withholding their vote of confidence from the government, and several others said that their position depended on Badran's willingness to concede to a set of preconditions ranging from a "limited reshuffle" of his cabinet to an immediate lifting of martial law.

The position of the Muslim Brotherhood remained unclear especially after one member of the 22-strong bloc, 'Abd-al-Mun'im Abu-Zant, said he would vote against the government.

In the first session Saturday, a bloc of 20 Islamists, comprising Muslim Brotherhood members and independent Islamists, presented a list of 14 demands, including stricter application of Islamic laws, a six-month deadline for total abolition of martial law and the reinstatement of civil servants fired for political reasons as well as increased support for the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories. The bloc's spokesman, 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyyat, said the group's vote in favour or against Badran depended on the prime minister pledging to meet their demands.

At first Shaykh Abu-Zant's rejectionist stand appeared to herald a change in the situation. Speculations were raised that some of the members of the 20-member group could have been influenced by Abu-Zant's stance and they could also reject any "compromise" with the government. However, 'Arabiyyat explained later to reporters that Abu-Zant's remarks did not necessarily reflect the Brotherhood's position or influence its members.

In general, most of the 14 deputies who took the floor Sunday praised the steps taken by the government towards liberalisation and relaxation of security restrictions on political activities, but demanded an immediate and complete lifting of martial law and the release of political prisoners.

They also demanded a halt to "intelligence interference with the daily lives of citizens" and a repeal of the 1939

defence law and the 1986 electoral law, which they described as emphasising "ethnic and sectarian divisions."

At least half a dozen deputies, mostly representing traditionalist thinking and tribes, expressed total support for the government and presented their respective demands for economic and industrial as well as educational and health services development in their respective constituencies.

Representatives of organised leftist groups which entered parliament for the first time since 1957, when all parties were banned, called for the legalisation of the existing political groups and a repeal of the 1953 law against communism.

Three deputies, publicly acknowledging that they were representatives of the banned Jordanian Communist Party, the Jordanian People's Democratic Party (JPDP)—formerly the Jordanian wing of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine—and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), indicated they were abstaining from the confidence vote.

Sources close to the three groups said their main concern was to encourage and give a chance for Jordan's democratic experiment.

In a lengthy speech, which amounted to a political programme, Bassam Haddadin (al-Zarqa) of the JPDP, said that he was abstaining and "will judge the cabinet according to its performance."

Former Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri, currently deputy of Amman, also called for the legalisation of political parties but said there was no need for a national charter to regulate the organisation and activities of political parties in Jordan.

"In light of the Jordanian Constitution... at present we do not need to find any new formula to parallel or overshadow the Constitution," Al-Masri argued. He did not indicate he would vote in favour or against the government.

Leftist Deputy Fakhri Qa'war said that he was withholding his vote of confidence and cited Badran's background as the head of the General Intelligence Department and cast doubts on the government's willingness to endorse "genuine democratisation" measures.

"Is this cabinet qualified to lead this stage? Is this 'structure' the real expression of the Jordanian political map and its nationalist forces?" asked Qa'war, the only journalist in parliament.

"I declare that this government does not differ in its course from the previous government because it does not represent a wide sector of this people and did not emanate from the people," he asserted. "Your Excellency, how do you reconcile between your role in the intelligence which abused people's rights and your respect and praise of the same people when some of them became deputies under this dome?"

Earlier in the session, independent Islamist Layth Shubaylat, who also withheld the vote of confidence, also cited Badran's background as the main reason for his position.

"I call on the appointment of a new prime minister who enjoys popular confidence as well parliamentary confidence so that he can gradually move the system to a new constitutional course to which the people are not used yet," said Shubaylat, who had also withheld the vote of confidence from Zayd al-Rifa'i's goverment in 1985.

Shubaylat, however, sharply countered an attack on the government by Deputy Dhuqan al-Hindawi, a former deputy prime minister during al-Rifa'i's rule. He said criticism levelled against Al-Rifa'i's government by ministers or senior officials of the era of the former prime minister was totally unacceptable since they themselves were part of it.

"I have to clarify to my brother Al-Hindawi and some former ministers in Al-Rifa'i's government who are today members of parliament that corruption and tyranny prevailed during that era and there were no men inside the government who acted according to their conscience and protested," Shubaylat said.

The declarations by the three deputies to withhold confidence in the cabinet were received by the loudest applause from more than 1,500 people who jammed the parliament gallery.

The Lower House resumes its session at 10:30 a.m. Monday with seven more deputies lined up to air their views and comments. The prime minister is expected to make a reply speech to the House, before the 80-member assembly takes a formal vote of confidence.

Badran Wins Vote of Confidence

JN0101163390 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1605 GMT 1 Jan 90

[Muhammad al-Tarawinah dispatch from the Parliament building in Amman—live]

[Text] The government of Mr Mudar Badran has won a vote of confidence from the House of Representatives. In a session that met a short while ago, 66 deputies voted for the government, 9 withheld confidence, and 5 abstained. The voting came after 3 days of discussions, during which 49 deputies spoke, reviewing in detail all aspects of the government's policy statement. In the evening session, Prime Minister Mudar Badran replied in detail to deputies' remarks and discussions. Mr Sulayman 'Arar has just adjourned the session, and everyone went to congratulate Mr Badran.

Badran Comments After Vote

JN0101175190 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 1 Jan 90

[Speech by Prime Minister Mudar Badran to the House of Representatives following its vote of confidence—live]

[Text] Your Excellency the Speaker, esteemed deputies. I thank all the esteemed deputies, those who gave me their cherished confidence, those who abstained, and those who withheld confidence. I fully am aware of the significance of this democratic experience of ours; it is the fence that protects this homeland. I always have been eager to see a house of representatives. At one moment during the march of this country under its inspired leader and when it was not possible to hold elections because of circumstances in the West Bank, the leader ordered the formation of the National Consultative Council, which was not a substitute for the House of Representatives. But at that time I told the council: If you do not want to give confidence to my government, then I will voluntarily resign; I will resign so long as you do not trust me. My brothers who were members of the council remember this.

King Husayn desired this pioneering democratic experience because it is the fence that protects this Kingdom, its citizens, and the order. There will be no mistakes in the future, so long as there is full knowledge in this House. The House will rectify this government's course and any other future government. It will tell the government where it goes wrong and lead it to the right path. When this happens, I do not envisage any problem in this country. Democracy is the real protector of this country and this order. Any responsibility lies with the prime minister and the cabinet. So long as we in this hall agree this order is the protector of the homeland and the people, no single point on which I disagree with you will remain—absolutely not. The question will be one of personal opinions. It is my right to have my views on a certain matter, and this House has the full right to have its opinions. This government will have to yield to the democratic decision, the decision of the majority.

I promise you—and I hope you will take me to task if I fail to keep this promise—that the cooperation between the government and your esteemed House will be full and complete. You fully realize the size and nature of the tasks upon this government's shoulders. Through cooperation with you, and with the voters behind you, we will overcome, God willing, the difficult and delicate stages toward further freedom and responsible democracy. Through this we will overcome all obstacles. I pray to God Almighty to grant my colleagues and me success in performing our duty and shouldering our trust. If at any time you notice that I or my colleagues are unable to continue shouldering this trust, then I hope you all will withhold confidence from this government. I seriously say this. This is true democracy. The time when it was possible to talk about the House of Representatives bringing down a government is over. A house of representatives bringing down a government now is natural in all democratic countries. The House of Representatives gives confidence and later withholds it; there is nothing wrong in this. Today I told many colleague members of the esteemed House of Representatives that if they voiced their confidence, I would thank them, and if they withheld it I also would thank them. I do not see anything wrong in this. I hope, after 3 intense days [of debate]—allow me to digress a little—that was a bittersweet experience, but in the final analysis it was positive. This is democracy, responsible freedom. Let us all join forces in this march toward progress under the march's leadership. May God's peace and blesings be upon you.

'Source' Says Relations With Libya in '48 Hours'

JN3012141889 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1400 GNMT 30 Dec 89

[Text] An authoritative Jordanian source reports Jordan will resume diplomatic relations with Libya following a 5-year estrangement which resulted from a fire that broke out in the Jordanian Embassy in Tripoli. Citing a ranking official, whom he declined to name, the source added the decision to resume Tripoli-Amman relations will be made in the next 48 hours.

'Awn Holds News Conference at B'abda 29 Dec

NC2912162089 (Clandestine) The Lebanese Radio in Arabic 1227 GMT 29 Dec 89

[News conference by General Michel 'Awn with unidentified correspondent at the Presidential Palace on 29 December—recorded]

[Excerpts] ['Awn] At the end of the year and on the occasion of the glorious holidays we wish you a new year full of happiness and prosperity, and we hope that Lebanon will enjoy freedom and sovereignty.

Many things have happened since our last meeting. There are several topics that we have not discussed. There is no need for a news conference, nor is there any need to bring a letter and read it out, because new things are happening every day. Our ideas are well known and the priority we attach to them is also well known. There is no need to waste time over them so long as there are people occupying Lebanese territory. They [not further identified] are not concerned over the occupation and they always ask about the ideas of General 'Awn. They want us to propose occupation instead of occupation [sentence as heard]. It seems they do not like liberation instead of occupation nor do they like the idea of withdrawal. They keep asking about our ideas. Our ideas are clear and our political ideas are clear. There is a single problem in Lebanon: that of occupation. This problem consists of two parts: the Syrian occupation, which is the bigger occupation in Lebanon, and the Israeli occupation.

Internal problems, or rather internal phenomena, have been produced by the two occupations. Sometimes they describe these as reform and at other times they call them the issue of the hour. Everyone is trying to create local [word indistinct] for the occupation and bring us back to sphere of internal struggle. We reject [word indistinct] in the internal struggle as long as there is a Syrian-Israeli occupation of Lebanese land. We are ready to hold direct discussions with the parties which are concerned with the dispute. There are no [words indistinct] between us and Syria. We are ready to reach an understanding with Syria on withdrawal, if it raises the issue of its withdrawal. We are also ready to hold negotiations with Syria over our relations, which should be the normal ties between two neighboring countries. This is our sole viewpoint. The other option is liberation but through other means.

The same thing applies to Israel. We still have something called an armistice and we have Resolution 425. We are only ready to act on such a basis. These are clear-cut matters which are pretty straightforward. The UN Security Council suffered a setback yesterday. It has failed over the past 3 days to indicate in any of the provisions anything about the occupation forces or about the withdrawal of the occupation forces. [sentence as heard] This confirms our viewpoint that Syria does not recognize the Lebanese Armed Forces. Syria only recognizes its armed forces here, as if they were the legitimate forces, and it is working to complete the annexation of Lebanon to Syria. This is what we are fighting now. That is all concerning the Lebanese crisis. [passage omitted]

Now I am ready to take your questions. You can ask about any current political or other issue.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr Prime Minister: [words indistinct] while certain major powers talk about time limits for your departure from B'abda. Are you certain that you can stay in B'abda to implement your major plan for the reconstruction of the homeland?

['Awn] Live for this world as if you were to live forever, and live for the world hereafter as if you were to die tomorrow. I [words indistinct]. [applause]

[Correspondent] Many people—both those who believe in your policy and those who do not—ask if Gen 'Awn has guarantees to stand to international and Arab [word indistinct] to abdicate in favor of legitimacy which emerged in al-Ta'if?

['Awn] This is a U.S. legitimacy, a Saudi legitimacy, and an Arab legitimacy. It is not a Lebanese legitimacy. We are in Lebanon here, unless they have erased this from the Lebanese conscience and believe that their homeland no longer exists and that they belong to another country. We have not yet joined al-Ta'if. We do not acknowledge al-Ta'if. We consider everything that has been produced by al-Ta'if as legally and actually nonexistent. I dissolved the Chamber of Deputies on 4 November in accordance with my legitimate powers. If Syria, the United States, or the Security Council get mad about it is another matter. I live here and am among my people and [words indistinct] carrying out my constitutional duties. I have legitimacy according to the Constitution and according to the people, and I have the military power. If they want to attack me [word indistinct] but I am not ready to sign for anyone.

They can invade if they want. They can bring fleets and forces as they (?did) in Panama. The force they landed in Panama was greater than the population. I do not know whether they have captured Noriega or not. They besieged the embassy and prevented the entry of food, water, and so forth. This is another subject. If anyone is looking for something legitimate, I say they [the al-Hirawi government] are not legitimate in Lebanon. I can consider them [words indistinct]. They are carrying out guerrilla warfare by besieging the Central Bank and by applying a financial blockade. This is guerrilla warfare. The usurpation of authority through foreigners is high treason. They are practicing high treason. This is not even their right to exercise opposition. This is usurpation. Can you tell me what force they live under now in the occupied areas? Do the people accept them? Who appointed them? Where did they come from? They are living in the past. For our part, we have erased them from our minds.

[Correspondent] Mr Prime Minister, the political power your excellency represents is not reflected in the information media, at least your media. Questions are being asked about on whom you depend while the international community does not recognize your legitimacy. Since you shifted your slogan from a march of liberation to a revolution of liberation, how can you reconcile revolution and freedom of information and media in your area? [words indistinct]

['Awn] I am committed to freedom at my own expense. In fact, there is some lack of discipline, and certain parties are exceeding the limits of the law. For example, no one is allowed to recognize any legitimacy other than mine. When a radio says President al-Hirawi, I will close [basakkira] it. This is illegal and undisciplined. And if a paper cites al-Hirawi as president, I will also close [basakkira] it, because this is a contradiction that violates the law. However, I tolerated even this, to give the people the opportunity to see their mistakes and reconsider their views. But there is a limit. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] [Question indistinct]

['Awn] You are speaking of educational levels and organization of education. There should be a definition of levels of sciences and languages. This is also part of the educational plan. I want to stress the content of education and not languages. In defining the levels of education, we must consider foreign languages, not only [words indistinct] polyglot [preceding word in English], not just two languages.

[Correspondent] Regarding the dissolution of the Chamber of Deputies, there are studies as well as local and international constitutional arguments over the dissolution. After the dissolution of the Chamber of Deputies, you called for holding elections. What is your opinion about these studies and are you still determined to hold the elections?

['Awn] There has only been one study in France and there has been talk about another study, but it has not been published. Do you have any specific questions about these studies?

[Correspondent] [Question indistinct]

['Awn] I do not at all doubt his integrity, but the answer depends on the way the question is put. As for me, I said that Gen 'Awn on 31 October [words indistinct]. He said you have the right to dissolve it. [Sentences indistinct] Regarding the elections, [words indistinct] we want to ask the United Nations to help us in holding the elections [words indistinct] for several reasons. This is because there has been talk that elections mean partition and this and that. We want to expose all pretexts. We will ask the United Nations to help us; otherwise, we want someone to represent the Lebanese people, someone who expresses the will of the people. [passage indistinct] We want to leave aside claims and hold real elections.

[Correspondent] Two important events have taken place in the world, in Panama and Romania. What lesson have you learned from these two events vis-a-vis the situation in Lebanon?

['Awn] I expressed my stand on these events indirectly when I said that the governments in the world defend interests, whereas people defend principles. This attitude recurs. The United States and, regrettably, Europe, who consider themselves the champions of defense of freedom in the world, are like others. They defend only their interests.

That is why you see terrible double standards in their positions. They say that they are against drugs and send their fleets and forces to capture a man, according to a claim made. I do not condemn Noriega. Perhaps he has nothing to do with drugs. I am speaking only of the stated pretext. They say that they are against drugs, when they support the most infamous regime for smuggling drugs here on our land, the Syrian regime. Thus, these democracies are a lie and the story of the free world is a lie. They are not governed by laws but interests. They interpret the law as they please in their interests.

The same applies to Romania. In Romania, the people, if we want to speak [words indistinct] there is no comparison between the situation in Romania and what the people pretend here. They support him [words indistinct] he has a twin here, Hafiz al-Asad. They support him although everyone knows that there had been friendship and all types of exchanges, trade, and others between the two regimes. Here they also defend their interests.

From this premise, the Lebanese must not tell anyone to feel at home [speaks in French] because this would harm us. We tell them to feel at home and they mistreat us. We hope that the Lebanese will learn a lesson from this, be aware, and show reservations about all their relations, both on the individual and state levels. They must always proceed from the interests of their homeland and not emotions.

[Correspondent] [Words indistinct] drugs in Lebanon, because it is assuming an international dimension?

['Awn] I am ready, but are they ready? Will the petrodollar allow them that?

[Correspondent] Does General 'Awn support the convening of a Christian conference that Lebanese Forces Commander Dr Samir Ja'ja' called for [words indistinct].

['Awn] Who will take part in the meeting? We must define who will take part and have representative character. I believe that before asking me this question, I personally do not claim to represent the Christians or any others before elections are held. I am bearing a trust and am defending it. Let us define through elections who represent the Lebanese people or resort to a referendum [preceding word in English]. This is becasue I believe

that the existing regime after the al-Ta'if conference is null and void. The Lebanese must choose the system he wants, or at least a new representative who will speak for him regarding this regime.

[Correspondent] [Question indistinct]

['Awn] This is a theory that we will deal with in due time.

[Correspondent] [Question indistinct]

['Awn] I do not represent the Christians. [laughter, applause]

[Correspondent] Regarding a Christian conference, Dr George Sa'adah said that he supports the convening of such a conference in which military, political, and religious figures may attend [words indistinct].

['Awn] This question was not put to me and I do not pretend to represent the Christian people. The Christian people represent themselves. Anyone who has a [words indistinct] since 1972, he can no longer claim to represent anyone, particularly since the Chamber of Deputies has been dissolved. We are not new representatives of the Christians. I will not run as a candidate for the Christians.

[Correspondent] [Words indistinct] Israeli and Syrian occupation. The Amal-Hizballah conflict in Iqlim al-Tuffah seems [word indistinct] to establish its position in the area. Will we have another occupation?

['Awn] [Passage indistinct] It will not take place without their agreement to decide the Middle East's future. We have warned against this repeatedly.

[Correspondent] [Question indistinct]

['Awn] [Words indistinct] a Syrian conspiracy. The whole plot is designed to erase Lebanon from the map.

[Correspondent] [Question indistinct]

['Awn] [Words indistinct] we have surplus of tens of thousands over the months of October, November, and December [word indistinct]. If you wish we will give the correct figures of the public security. I wish you would not ask questions you are not sure of.

[Correspondent] Can we consider [words indistinct] Ja'ja' proposal a refusal or [words indistinct]?

['Awn] [Passage indistinct]

[Correspondent] [Question indistinct]

['Awn] I am looking at the fruit not to the tree.

[Correspondent] [Question indistinct]

['Awn] [Words indistinct] if one wishes to discuss a certain subject, he is welcome [words indistinct] they are talking about conferences. At least let them set forth a program for discussion. If we are to discuss the al-Ta'if issue, the al-Ta'if accord is dead as far as I am concerned. If there is another subject to be discussed, we are [words indistinct]. We do not want to hold another Bkirki conference or another al-Ta'if conference, or any another conference. The situation has not reached a serious stage requiring an answer from me whether to participate or not. I do not respond to proposals that are still uncrystallized ideas. If it is an invitation for lunch I will go if I have the time. We are not playing down the issue. We will not hold another Bkirki conference.

[Correspondent] [Question indistinct]

['Awn] I am not angry with anyone. They are welcome to reconcile with the Lebanese people. I did not tell them not to return. I (?advised) them not to return. [Word indistinct] to protect them from mob elements [words indistinct]. If they feel they are reconciled with the people and that they represent the Lebanese people [words indistinct] they are welcome. However, if they do not have the capability to return, they should not depend on me to protect from the people [words indistinct].

[Correspondent] [Question indistinct]

['Awn] How come? Can I say to [words indistinct] in electing Ilyas al-Hirawi president of the republic? I refuse him as an individual. How can I tell the people to accept him? Do you believe that I would meet with a person who says Ilyas al-Hirawi is the president of the republic? [Words indistinct] dissolve the Chamber of Deputies? Those who propose such ideas are not mentally sound. [Word indistinct] dissolution of the Chamber of Deputies by legitimate powers. I enjoy popular and military powers and I have everything at my disposal. It is a tolerance, going beyond the law to hear such voices [words indistinct] because they have surpassed the law to a great extent [words indistinct]. We are allowing the people to gather and even conspire against us. What more do you want?

[Correspondent] Mr Prime Minister, what is your comment about minister [words indistinct]

['Awn] You surprised me with this question. However, we are not in al-Ta'if to offer allegiance and get paid. [Sentence indistinct] Had we been in al-Ta'if, this would have been correct, but thanks to God we are in B'abda.

[Correspondent] [Question indistinct]

['Awn] [Words indistinct] as we have promised you there is no problem. Albert Mansur [word indistinct] to offer his allegiance in order to get paid.

[Correspondent] [Question indistinct]

['Awn] I am not preventing any one from [words indistinct] but did he say he went there assigned by me?

[Correspondent] [Question indistinct]

['Awn] No.

[Correspondent] [Question indistinct]

['Awn] [Word indistinct] outside the jurisdiction. The UN Security Council is an inner council whose job is to deal with acts of aggression and problems between the states, not to deal with the countries' internal affairs. The UN Security Council may ask Syria and Israel to withdraw from Lebanon, but it does not deal with elections [word indistinct] between the Lebanese people. It has not dealt with the Lebanese crisis, saying this is a domestic problem. [passage omitted]

'Awn Addresses Senior Army, Police Officers

NC3012140589 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 30 Dec 89

[Text] On the occasion of the new year and in accordance with an official program drawn up by the protocol department at B'abda Palace, Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn today received political, party, parliamentary, and labor union figures. He also received senior officers from the army, the internal security forces, public security, and the republican guard.

Addressing the senior army officers, Gen 'Awn said:

[Begin 'Awn recording] Many things have been achieved but we still have to pursue the fundamental and basic issue. The 15-year-old Lebanese problem was in its death throes and continued to deteriorate. The aim was to complete the course of handing over Lebanon to the superpowers' proxies in the region. But we have turned this into a course of liberating Lebanon from the new proxies of the superpowers, which want to resolve the Middle East problem at our expense. Thus we started the resistance war to retrieve Lebanon. This is the history of 14 March. The regional and international political handling of the issue continued until it reached two turning points. The first was military, namely the Suq-al-Gharb battle of 13 August when permission was given to overrun [the Christian areas]. But the Lebanese Army and you stood fast and recorded a new page of heroism. The second turning point was political, namely the tripartite committee which wrote the only signed report condemning Syria as the main obstacle to a solution in Lebanon. However, after much pressure, this committee discarded this paper, but did not cancel it in writing.

Now we find that there is international support for al-Ta'if agreement which is stalled. Why is it stalled? I referred to this in my speech. It is stalled because it is against the internationally backed institutions. The latter are covered by the UN and human rights charters. There are general principles that have to be respected when tackled by the international community. The Security Council deviated from these charters, interfered in matters that do not concern it, and ignored matters that it should have tackled in the Lebanese problem. This is why there is this stumbling. They are not willing to implement the al-Ta'if agreement despite the consensus because it violates the human rights charter, differs from the UN Charter, and conflicts with all the principles on which the international institutions have been established.

We have a just right and we will not relinquish it. We are always ready to defend it. All that has been achieved is the result of a revolution of the conscience. We have regained our reputation despite the efforts by the greatest power. His holiness the pope considers the United States an occupation power in Panama. The secretary of state of the greatest power has accused us of terrorism and drug trafficking while he knows that the Lebanese are neither drug traffickers nor terrorists. He knows that drugs are produced and terrorism is nurtured by the occupation forces with which he is cooperating. I do not know the aim of their cooperation. They have kept silent about this and falsely accused us. But we have done away with these accusations and have made the Lebanese identity and affiliation a source of pride. [end recording]

Ja'ja' Addresses Resistance Day Rally 26 Dec

NC2612173989 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1301 GMT 26 Dec 89

[Speech by Lebanese Forces Commander Dr Samir Ja'ja' at a rally marking Resistance Day at the Lebanese Forces headquarters in East Beirut—live]

[Excerpts] Friends and comrades: You are in the den of the resistance and in its heart. You are in its temple, its spirit, and its inner sanctum. You are its bells, its glowing light, and its laurels. The resistance is the hope, will, shield, and sword and you are its hope, will, shield, and the blade of the sword. [cheers, applause] Today is the long awaited day of resistance. I have long waited for you, and how sweet it is to get together after the long silence and waiting. [cheers]

O men of resistance, [cheers and applause] let all hear you and hear us. We are here so do not be afraid. [applause] We are here and Lebanon need not be afraid. [cheers and applause] We are here and the resistance is here. We are here to survive. We have fought to survive and we will survive. [cheers]

O men of resistance, we will resist during times of joy and times of affliction. We will endure daily suffering, repression, bitterness, and displacement and we will be steadfast. We will resist with pain, hunger, silence, words, and weapons. [cheers] [passage omitted]

The Lebanese resistance well knows what it wants. It wants a new formula based on reciprocal recognition among the various Lebanese groups and on respect for the characteristics of each group. We want a formula which will preclude hegemony, coercion, or tyranny, but will provide for dialogue, understanding, and consultation. No one should think that any group can impose its will on another group. Therefore, we call for an articulated and balanced formula based on decentralization, the details of which can be discussed among the Lebanese themselves. [cheers, applause]

We assert that the internationally recognized Lebanon belongs to all its sons. Partition is out of the question. We want to return to Dayr al-Ahmar, Bsharri, Zahlah,

the valley, al-Qubayyat, Dayr al-Qamar, the mountain, Marj 'Uyun, and everywhere in Lebanon. [cheers, applause] We also emphasize that the internationally recognized Lebanon belongs to all its sons. Therefore, partition, sharing, and [Palestinian] settlement are out of the question.

Lebanon must be united within the framework of diversity and pluralism. Therefore the order of yesterday, today, and tomorrow is unity, sovereignty, and freedom. [cheers and applause]. The order of yesterday, today, and tomorrow is unity, sovereignty, freedom, and a comprehensive and just peace for everyone or no peace for anyone. [cheers, applause] [passage omitted]

Comrades and strugglers, we are with every resistance fighter in all places and at all times. Thus, we are loyal to the principles of resistance and true to ourselves. Ours is a comprehensive and unanimous resistance which transcends borders, partisanship, areas, individuals, and groups. We, the Lebanese Forces, the Army, the Phalangists, the National Liberals, and any other resistance group represent one united resistance. [applause]

Comrades, no one should think that he can deal separately with any of us to penetrate, harm, and attack the free areas. No one should try to infiltrate through any crack in the house to occupy the whole house because we will all be one voice and one rifle to defend our free areas.

Comrades, when the danger is imminent, all strategies and tactics become one strategy, one tactic, and one united and steadfast resistance. O strugglers, we say in a reverberating voice that had it not been for the free areas, there would have been no hope for Lebanon. From here, I call on all Arab and foreign states concerned with Lebanon not to permit any harm to the free areas under any pretexts or circumstances. The free areas can confront any difficulty, no matter how serious. They do not lack the means to emerge from the current impasse. They have sufficient intrinsic power, political weight, Arab relations, and international links to ward off any danger and overcome all sorts of crises. Therefore, be patient and do not be afraid. We are here. Let your faith in the future be strong and firm. By our unity, we will create this future and smash all the barriers of fear. Lebanon has nothing to fear. [cheers]

Friends and comrades, in your name I loudly call from here, the home of resistance, on the Christians to unite their ranks and stand. I tell all: Unite because our union means an invincible strength. I also tell them: Set aside all your differences because everything becomes cheap for the sake of what is most cherished and most dear, for the sake of Lebanon. [cheers]

Friends and comrades, I tell all that the Christian agreement is the only way to Lebanese accord. I tell them: Come and let us try together to emerge from the current impasse through which we are fumbling for the good of all the Christians and Lebanon. On this premise, I call for a general Christian meeting embracing all forces and spiritual, political, party, and military key figures in the hope of reaching an understanding before it is too late that will satisfy the homeland and our conscience, be binding on all of us, and serve as a basis and a starting point for emerging from the current crisis.

O Lebanese, as a result of national resistance, great armies withdrew from Afghanistan, Angola, Cambodia, and elsewhere. The fierce Gulf War stopped after many long years when much wealth was squandered and enormous losses were sustained. The Berlin Wall and walls of coercion, oppression, and domination have fallen in more than one place around the world. The two superpowers declared at their summit, held close to our coast, that the policy of openness and peace in the world would continue. They also declared that they support a peaceful solution in Lebanon.

At this particular time, we Lebanese are called upon to make two decisions for the sake of the homeland and history. The first decision is to eliminate all obstacles and barriers so that, through dialogue and peace, we can establish the new order, the order of pluralistic unity, to secure freedom, dignity, and security for all. The second decision is that the liberation of the land and the restoration of sovereignty and dignity should be the sublime and holiest goal. [applause]

O you men of the resistance, its lions and cubs, its eagles and lilies, always be alert and prepared. Do not lay down your rifles and do not drop the cedar and olive branches. Let those near and far know that we have deep roots in this land, in our mountains, plains, cities, and villages. No force on earth can uproot us from this land. [cheers, applause]

O men of the resistance, rest assured. Wisdom is our slogan and fire is our weapon. [applause] Rest assured because we are strong. We have a solution for all problems. [applause] O strugglers, I can see the Lebanon of freedom, dignity, and sovereignty in the flutter of your flags here. I can see the twinkle of victory in the sparks in your eyes. You are the resistance and the resurrection of Lebanon lies in the resistance. Long live the Lebanese resistance and long live Lebanon. [applause]

Amal-Hizballah Clashes in Iqlim al-Tuffah Persist

Hizballah Claims 3 Killed

NC2912183189 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 29 Dec 89

[Text] The intensive consultations and contacts on the Beirut-Damascus-Tehran line have not been able to halt the clashes between the Amal Movement and Hizballah in Iqlim al-Tuffah.

For the seventh consecutive day, the clashes between the Amal and Hizballah armed men are continuing, especially on the Kafr Milki, Kafr Hatta, 'Ayn Qana, and Buslayya Hill.

Citing security sources, REUTER said attacks and counterattacks are taking place in Kafr Hatta and Kafr Milki under artillery cover.

Meanwhile, Hizballah sources have accused the Amal Movement of random shelling of Kafr Fila town, killing three persons: 'Afif Qasim, Husayn Rashid, and Yusuf al-Taqiy, and wounding 10 others.

The Amal Movement denied Hizballah's charge but indicated that clashes have occurred between it and Hizballah.

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad 'Ali Besharati, who had announced a cease-fire that was not observed, left Beirut for Damascus today in a new bid to halt the deteriorating situation between the two rival parties.

Clashes Intensify After Hizballah Attack

NC3012125789 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 30 Dec 89

[Text] Intermittent clashes involving the use of machineguns and rockets are taking place on the Kafr Milki, Jarju' and Kafr Hatta combat lines. According to the latest security reports, a round hit Kafr Fila township, killing and wounding several citizens.

Sources from the Amal Movement have been quoted as sayking that the clashes intensified on all combat lines after Hizballah launched an attack from the direction of Sarba and 'Ayn Qana.

Fatah Calls for End to Fighting

NC2912201589 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 29 Dec 89

[Text] The Fatah Movement has expressed its readiness to mediate between the Amal Movement and Hizballah in the south. While calling for an immediate end to the fighting, Fatah stressed that it not allow the combat zone to be extended. It pointed out that it had taken measures to prevent the expansion of fighting.

Fatah To Deploy Forces

NC3012081489 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0530 GMT 30 Dec 89

[Text] While efforts continue to end the clashes in Iqlim al-Tuffah and stabilize the cease-fire, a new factor emerged today. 'Arafat's group in Sidon has announced that it will deploy along points separating the two sides.

Zayd Wahbi, representative of 'Arafat's Fatah group in Lebanon, was quoted as saying that the Fatah Movement has imposed itself as the real disengagement force on the ground. He said: We can now confirm that the area of the battle will not expand and that it has become very limited. Wahbi pointed out that this step was taken because of the warring sides' failure to respond to the repeated appeals to stop the fighting among brothers. In conclusion, Wahbi said: We imposed this situation in implementation of a responsible political decision by Yasir 'Arafat.

Some reports say that 'Arafat's Fatah Movement has actually taken up strategic positions in the al-Dubayyah area after asking Hizballah to withdraw from these positions. The reports do not give details about the measures 'Arafat's group has adopted in the field.

Birri Cautions Hizballah

NC2912182689 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 29 Dec 89

[Text] Amal-Hizballah fighting resumed along the various combat lines in Iqlim al-Tuffah, particularly in the town of Kafr Milki and Kafr Fila.

According to a security source in al-Nabatiyah, Amal Movement fighters are still in full control of Jarju'. Meanwhile, contacts continued on various levels to resolve the tense situation. Amal Movement leader Minister Nabih Birri urged the Islamic Republic of Iran to adopt a daring stand and pinpoint the aggressor on western al-Biqa' and Iqlim al-Tuffah. Minister Birri stressed that Hizballah has a last historic chance to repent.

Birri Rejects Disengagement Force

NC3012123489 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 30 Dec 89

[Text] The clashes in Iqlim al-Tuffah have not subsided despite the sudden and capricious Palestinian involvement along the military confrontation lines between the Amal Movement and Hizballah in the area.

Commenting on this interference, Amal Movement leader Minister Nabih Birri said today: We reject any disengagement force, be it Palestinian or otherwise. The attack on the south will be forcibly repulsed if it is not voluntarily ended. He added: We concluded an agreement with the Palestinian leaders following our 1987 initiative. We and they know that this agreement has been implemented fully. I have no comment about their stand.

Junblatt Condemns Fighting

NC2912194589 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 29 Dec 89

[Excerpts] Walid Junblatt, leader of the Progressive Socialist Party, has warned against the consequences of the Hizballah-Amal fighting. In a statement this afternoon, he said:

We hesitated a lot before adopting a stand on the current fighting between Hizballah and Amal in the south. This fighting, which serves the enemy, has already cost the lives of elite young strugglers and patriots. I am not here to pinpoint responsibility, because I am an ally of both

parties. We are linked by great and fundamental relations of alliance. We have consolidated this alliance through principles and meetings in Damascus and Tehran. Now that matters have gone too far, I want only to draw attention to the following:

1. Guns are without value if they are not used to defend the national Arab presence against Israel and against the partitionist plan and the al-Yarzah army.

2. The statement issued by Fatah yesterday calling for a halt to the fighting or else Fatah will be compelled to separate the combatants is the best proof of the intentions of the Palestinian reactionary forces to expand toward Iqlim al-Tuffah and reach al-Zahrani to separate the south from Beirut and later to entrench the Palestinian colonization of this area at the expense of the national struggle of the national, Arab, and faithful Islamic forces and at the expense of the struggle of the Palestinian fighters in occupied Palestine.

3. If some quarters oppose the al-Ta'if accord, they can raise these objections within the framework of legitimacy and not by torpedoing this accord. Everyone knows that without establishing the legitimate authority of the new government on all Lebanese territory, the accord will remain only ink on paper. Resolutions issued by the United Nations only give moral support. With the passage of time the accord might become like UN Security Council Resolution 242.

On the other hand, if some believe that through the fighting in Iqlim al-Tuffah they can implement the Damascus and Tehran agreements, we tell them that with the continuation of the fighting all the alliances that have been concluded will disappear. Therefore, I apologize to my comrades in the Amal and Hizballah if I do not agree with them on some matters and if I do not pinpoint who is responsible for the fighting. My concern is that it is time for us to comprehend the dangers of what is happening before it is too late.

4. We reiterate that the security of the south is a Lebanese national issue. It is also a pan-Arab issue. Therefore, there is no room for playing with the security of the south except through full and absolute coordination with Damascus. [passage omitted]

5. There are those who still bet on a struggle or a confrontation between the Lebanese Forces and the al-Yarzah army and who pin hopes on Samir Ja'ja' to save Lebanon's unity and [words indistinct]. It is high time for those inside and outside Lebanon to refrain from this wagering because it is an historical mistake. Ja'ja' tried to improve his position on the ground [words indistinct]. He did not say anything new except that he emphasized the pluralism of civilizations and hence partition or federalism. Ja'ja' and 'Awn are two sides of the same coin. [passage omitted]

Hizballah Official 'Deplores' Fighting

LD2912153389 Tehran IRNA in English 1452 GMT 29 Dec 89

[Text] Beirut, Dec 29, IRNA—Secretary general of Hizbollah of Lebanon Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli here Friday deplored resumption of clashes between Muslim factions Hizballah and Amal in Lebanon, but expressed hope that current mediation between the two groups by the Islamic Republic would shortly bear fruit.

Speaking in a press conference he said the terms and conditions for an eventual and permanent cessation of hostilities between the two groups is comprised in the Damascus agreement worked out with the cooperation of the Islamic Republic and earlier signed between representatives of the two Muslim groups, and noted that the Hizballah totally adheres to the dictates therein.

The official of the Hizballah noted that his party also fully respects an agreement negotiated by Iran's First Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati, but added that the ceasefire agreement had been broken by members of the Amal Movement.

Iranian, Syrian Officials Confer

LD3012170689 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 30 Dec 89

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Besharati, who has gone to Syria and Lebanon to end the clashes between the Amal forces and the revolutionary Hizballah forces, met Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' for the second time today and discussed the latest developments in connection with the clashes and the necessity for ending the hostilities.

Thanking the Iranian delegation for its efforts and expressing his concern about the continuation of the clashes, the Syrian foreign minister said: Syria's stance is similar to Iran's. Our warring Amal and Hizballah brothers must view their own issues and those of the region and Lebanon from a wider angle.

Army Fires at Unidentified Boat Near Al-Madfun

NC3012180189 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 30 Dec 89

[Text] Security sources this evening disclosed that an unidentified boat approached the coast between al-Madfun and al-Barbara between 1645 and 1700 today, causing suspicion. The Lebanese Army's unit in the area opened heavy-caliber machinegun fire at the boat, forcing it to retreat to its origin in al-Batrun.

Preliminary security reports had earlier said that an isolated clash involving the Lebanese Army and the Syrian troops occurred in the al-Madfun area between 1650 and 1710 and extended to the village of Rashana.

In another development, the areas of al-Shiyah and 'Ayn al-Rummanah were subjected to sudden sniper fire this evening. The targets were the upper floors of residential buildings. Our correspondent reports that a 5-year-old child, Rafi George Rizqallah, was shot in the stomach in his home. He was taken to the Hotel Dieu hospital for treatment and he is still in critical condition.

The fringes of al-Mujadalah alley and the Mazda and al-Matahin lines had earlier come under intermittent fire which reached as far as al-Hazimiyah.

Commentary on Restoration of Ties With Egypt

JN2912150389 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 29 Dec 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: It is natural for the decision to restore Syria-Egypt relations to draw large-scale attention from our Arab masses throughout the great Arab homeland. Throughout Arab history, Syria and Egypt always have been all Arab's focus of attention and a title for their militancy. Their convergence always has been a sign of achievement or victory and an effective weapon to confront a hostile onslaught. It also is natural the convergence of Syria and Egypt will be given more than one meaning and signification and will be surrounded with hope by our masses. It also is natural this convergence will be faced with a number of calculations and expectations by our Zionist enemy and its circles.

What we first and foremost must affirm is that Syria—with its people, party, and leader—always has been the clear and strong expression of the aspirations and will of the Arab masses. It also has been the most committed to these masses's issues, particularly our conflict with the enemy and its brutal schemes to carry out its plot aimed at obliterating Arab rights and threatening the Arab future. Therefore old and new wagers that Syria has changed or will change its constants are and will remain losing ones. The illusion that Syria has changed or amended its calculations will remain misleading and false.

Arab solidarity always has been an advanced, militant action which Syria has been concerned to achieve and strengthen. Solidarity is an act of confrontation and a reaction to a threat. This threat continues and escalates today; the proofs are too many and are known to everyone. Arab solidarity always has existed. It is a perpetual fact stemming from our Arab people belonging to one nation, and consequently, their aspirations are the same. The dangers facing them are the same, as their fate and their menacing enemy are the same.

The Zionist plot has marred relations among some Arab states. Our Arab people, however, have remained united in confrontation and steadfastness, waiting for daybreak and the return to normalcy. This step was taken in light of the imminent danger and the search for required pan-Arab necessities. The Syrian-Egyptian convergence came as a new dimension in the confrontation to close ranks and avert dangers and as a prelude to victory.

USSR's Katushev Signs Agreement, Departs

JN2912153289 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 29 Dec 89

[Text] The minutes of the Syrian-Soviet talks were signed today at the Economy Ministry. The minutes deal with the development of trade relations and economic and scientific cooperation between Syria and the USSR. They were signed for Syria by Economy and Foreign Trade Minister Dr Muhammad al-'Imadi and for the Soviet Union by USSR Foreign Economic Relations Minister Katushev in the presence of Dr Sabah Baqjaji, minister of state for planning affairs; the governor of the Central Bank of Syria; and the Soviet ambassador in Damascus.

In a statement after signing the minutes, Katushev said: Today we signed the minutes of the talks on economic and trade cooperation between Syria and the USSR. We have traditional cooperation in this field. This cooperation covers all branches of the economy in Syria, such as energy, irrigation, oil and gas drilling, and expertise on the best way to use Soviet equipment in Syria. He added this agreement will help develop and reinforce existing economic and trade relations. It also is considered a good step to prepare for the coming meeting of the joint Soviet-Syrian committee. He said views agreed on how to benefit from the new forms of cooperation between the two countries, such as joint projects, whether in the USSR or in Syria.

Katushev and his delegation left Damascus this afternoon after a visit of several days. He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Al-'Imadi, Sabah Baqjaji, the Soviet ambassador in Damascus and the embassy staff.

Al-Asad, UAE Official Discuss Arab Situation

JN2812154389 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 28 Dec 89

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad at 1315 today received Hilal Bin-Ahmad Lutah, chairman of the Arab Parliamentary Union and speaker of the Federal National Council of the United Arab Emirates [UAE]. 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah, speaker of the People's Assembly, and 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Burawi, secretary general of the Arab Parliamentary Union, attended the meeting. Lutah conveyed to the president greetings of Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the UAE, which the president acknowledged. He asked Lutah to convey his greetings to Shaykh Zayid and the fraternal people in the UAE. The talks dealt with the Arab situation and activity of the Arab Parliamentary Union.

Al-Asad Receives Message From Afghan President

JN3012200489 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 30 Dec 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' this evening received Afghan Deputy Foreign Minister (Da'ud Kawyan). Assistant Foreign Minister Diya'allah al-Fattal and the Afghan charge d'affaires in Damascus attended.

Mr Kawyan handed a message to Minister al-Shar' from Afghan President Najibullah addressed to President Hafiz al-Asad. The message deals with the situation in Afghanistan.

TISHRIN Urges Intensifying 'Awn's Isolation

JN0201123590 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 2 Jan 90

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Isolation Measures and the Responsibility of Terminating 'Awn's Rebellion" TISHRIN says: With the ever-increasing Arab and international support for the Lebanese legitimacy and the national accord government, and with the ongoing efforts to settle the dilemma of 'Awn's rebellion in a peaceful manner, although there are no signs on the possibility of his bowing to the Lebanese, Arab, and international will, the Lebanese legitimacy once again emphasizes its responsibility which its national and pan-Arab duties dictate on it. Lebanese legitimacy cannot continue to ignore the rebellious state with all that this entails in terms of the possibility of transforming this phenomoneon into a partitioning state. This is because it is impermissible to endanger the country's unity, and it is also impermissible to give diplomatic efforts and mediations an indefinite period of time. The time factor can be exploited by 'Awn to entrench his status and undermine any serious action that leads to Lebanon's unity.

After reviewing the role planned for 'Awn and the parallel lines that will ultimately lead to the elimination of the obstacles that obstruct Lebanese legitimacy, TISHRIN says: It has become obvious that 'Awn is no longer the only force that controls the eastern sector in spite of all the repressive measures he carries out on the one hand, and the enticements he offers on the other. There is more than one party which has started to openly speak about the failure of 'Awn and his schemes. The noose has started to tighten around 'Awn's neck. This dictates intensifying the isolation measures and stepping up their effectiveness. It is only natural that the first days of the new year will witness the beginning of the implementation of a comprehensive plan that was formulated by the national accord government to enhance its legitimacy on the national and foreign level and reaffirm its legitimate right to resort to all means to terminate the rebellion and its emblems, and implement the Al-Ta'if agreement on which the Lebanese have reached consensus and which was supported by the Arab and international will.

Afghanistan

Najibullah's PDPA Anniversary Speech on 'Changes'

BK3112142489 Hong Kong AFP in English 1420 GMT 31 Dec 89

[By Pratap Chakravarty]

[Text] Kabul, Dec 31 (AFP)—Afghan President Najibullah Sunday proposed changes in his ruling party, saying his suggestions were a response to the winds of change in Eastern Europe and were aimed at promoting unity to accelerate the peace process.

The president said future programs and actions of his ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) should be altered, and called on left-wing parties to form a "national front" for the formation of a future government. "All left-wing parties and organizations should be in the framework of a national front, and any future government should be from it," Mr. Najibullah said in a speech in an underground hall at the Foreign Ministry to PDPA Politburo and Central Committee members, ministers, generals and party theoreticians. The group, along with diplomats, had assembled to mark the eve of the 25th anniversary of the founding of the PDPA which has been propped up by the Soviet Union since 1979.

His proposals included suggestions that the name of the PDPA, which since the Soviet troop withdrawal the leadership has declined to classify as communist, be changed, and that second-line organizations such as the youth and women's wings, and journalists unions be given independence. "The name of the PDPA has remained as it was in 1965. It has to be a party of the people and it should choose a name to represent its present and future role," he said as party members endorsed the suggestions with applause.

The president, flanked by Prime Minister Sultan Ali Keshtmand and controversial Defence Minister Shanawaz Tanai, called on the PDPA of which he is secretary general, to strengthen the party base through alliances with socialist parties and groups of "allies and friendly countries" to "accelerate the process of peace and unity."

"We must expand international contacts as a new change has taken place in the world," the president said, adding that the PDPA should not turn into an anachronism in the face of political changes in the socialist bloc and East Europe.

Much of the hour-long, soul-searching speech in the Foreign Ministry's underground hall dwelt on the failures and successes of the PDPA since its formation in 1965 with seven members, and warnings to present cadres not to try to split the party. The PDPA currently has 16 Politburo members including Mr. Najibullah and 138 permanent and 53 alternate members leading a 200,000 strong cadre. The president described the party as a popular movement and said that 65.5 percent of the armed forces were PDPA members.

Lashing out at factionalism and "splitism" dogging the party, he said it was caused by personal greed and other personal factors. "Party members are to show a high level of solidarity to overcome the fatal and disastrous effects of regionalism and factionalism," he said in a stern warning to those who did not support his 1986 national reconciliation plan aimed at ending the war. The plan has been rejected by the resistance mujahidin, who have branded the PDPA a Soviet puppet and are fighting to oust it.

Ordering an end to abuse and monopoly of party power, Mr. Najibullah said that all "executive members should see that no PDPA member misuses authority for personal reasons," and added that attempts to erode party discipline were "unforgiveable."

"New generations are replacing old members ...and they must avoid groupism and factionalism which in the past ruined and lessened the PDPA's influence," he said.

Detailing the history of the party and some of its "unrealistic policies", the president said the party had undergone changes and overcome all difficulties. "It has shown determination to work and struggle. The PDPA is a part of society and cannot live without its influence or by influencing it," he told the meeting which was guarded by troop carriers and soldiers armed with machine guns and rocket launchers.

"The recent events in Eastern Europe ring the bells of danger. They rang because of dogma. One cannot live with obsolete theories," the president said. "Losing sight of national and international events can prove to be a disaster," he said. "Ideologies should be for the people as their demands are the main factors in policy making," said Mr. Najibullah, who came to power in 1986 and was named president in 1987.

Official Says Coup Plotters Included Top Officers

BK3112003889 Hong Kong AFP in English 1938 GMT 30 Dec 89

[Text] Kabul, Dec 30 (AFP)—The Afghan Government said Saturday [30 December] that a group plotting to overthrow President Najibullah had infiltrated the ruling party and the top levels of the military.

The clandestine group subverted personnel of the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan [PDPA] and the Armed Forces from "soldiers to the top," Deputy Security Minister Yaar Muhammad [name as received] said.

The secret police arrested 127 suspects on December 2 in connection with the coup plot, a government spokesman said Tuesday.

Mr. Muhammad said that the government cracked down on the group, the Central Organisation of Islamic Party (COIP), when it was getting "too dangerous," adding

that the government was trying to track down the remaining members. Amnesty had been offered to COIP activists still underground and "some have responded" to it, he said.

"Their main objective was to take over political power in the country," the deputy minister told journalists and diplomats summoned together for the first time since the plot was thwarted. He denied implications by reporters of Afghanistan's state-run media that the sweeping crackdown had triggered dissatisfaction in the ruling party and clashes in army ranks.

It is widely believed that several generals were activists of the COIP, which had been linked to the Afghan rebel faction Hezb-e Eslami led by Golbuddin Hekmatyar.

The deputy minister showed videotaped interviews of alleged COIP leaders, their identities hidden by black strips across their eyes in the screen images. The suspects had confessed to a plot to assassinate diplomats and launch bombings and rocketing of cities, he said. "They have been arrested and imprisoned and will be set free after they serve their sentences," he said, without saying how long the prison terms would be.

At one stage, the authorities considered executing the plotters, according to the seldom-seen Mr. Muhammad, whose ministry controls the dreaded KHAD secret police. "The group started plotting the coup attempt last year and they have members in Kabul and the suburbs," he said. Among the COIP members were artisans, traders, members from education departments and other offices, agriculture and army men with ranks ranging "from soldier to the top," he said.

"The PDPA has also been infiltrated by the clandestine organisation, but the number (of party leaders involved) is not very large," the deputy minister said. "Investigations are still on and the full details would be revealed to the public after their completion," he said when asked about the COIP's size and organisational strength. He did add, however, that it was the first time a plot of this size had been unearthed.

The COIP was formed a year ago with the ultimate goal of overthrowing Mr. Najibullah and his 25-year-old ruling party, which is supported by Moscow and was put in place by Soviet military intervention in 1979.

Mr. Muhammad said the Security Department had released a Defence Ministry communications chief, a colonel-general and a colonel who had been among those arrested in connection with the plot. The names of the three were not disclosed. "The ministry never arrests someone who has not violated laws, and if someone repents his deeds the ministry provides pardons through legal channels," Mr. Muhammad said.

The Security Department had gathered enough irrefutable documentary evidence against the COIP, and a number of the group's leaders had fled to Pakistan, he said.

Soldiers Receive Death Sentence for Crimes

LD2812204189 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 28 Dec 89

[Excerpts] Four members of local subunits were sentenced today in an open judicial session of the Special National Security Court for perpetrating criminal acts in Kabul.

The BIA [BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY] military section correspondent reports that recently a number of men attached to the local armed forces, contrary to statements made by the responsible government authorities, entered Kabul with their weapons, where they seized goods from shops, plundered citizens' property, committed murders, and created fear and panic among the people, thus disrupting general order.

In order to prevent such criminal activities, the responsible authorities arrested the perpetrators as soon as possible and put them under intensive interrogation.

The report adds that from among 33 persons accused of committing the above crimes, four men, namely ('Abdallah), (Muhammad Yusuf), (Gol Muhammad) and (Khayr Muhammad), personnel of the local forces, were tried in an open court on charges of murder, armed plunder, assault, and disrupting public order and security. [passage omitted]

In accordance with Articles 271, 273 and the last paragraph of Article 275 of the Criminal Procedure Code, they were convicted and received the maximum punishment. [passage omitted]

Mas'ud Hangs 4 Members of Rival Mujahidin Group

BK0101054090 Hong Kong AFP in English 0529 GMT 1 Jan 90

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, Jan 1 (AFP)—Afghan guerrilla leader Ahmad Shah Mas'ud had four members of a rival group hanged for their alleged involvement in the killing of 30 of his men last July, his brother Ahmad Zia said here Monday [1 January].

The public execution of the members of the fundamentalist Hezb-e Eslami group took place after an "Islamic trial" a week ago in Charwal park at Taleqan, capital of northern Afghanistan's Takhar Province near the Soviet border, Mr. Zia said.

Quoting a report he had received in Peshawar, the rebel mujahidin's base in Pakistan, Mr. Zia said Sayyed Jamal and one of his brothers, as well as two other members of the Hezb, were hanged in front of more than 1,000 people after being found guilty of the killings.

The death sentence was decided by a commission of 43 religious leaders, or mawlawis, from the northern provinces of Takhar, Badakhshan, Konduz and Balkh, and as a result of "popular pressure" on Mr. Mas'ud, Mr. Zia said.

Resistance sources said the executions threatened to cause further tension between the Jamiyat-e Eslami, to which Mr. Mas'ud belongs, and the Hezb, headed by Golbuddin Hekmatyar, one of the most radical leaders of the Afghan guerrillas fighting the Soviet-backed government in Kabul.

The killings last July of Mr. Mas'ud's men, including six of his lieutenants, caused a serious crisis within mujahidin ranks.

Hekmatyar Blames Rabbani

BK0101140190 Hong Kong AFP in English 1316 GMT 1 Jan 90

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 1 (AFP)—Golbuddin Hekmatyar, leader of the Afghan resistance Hezb-e Eslami group whose four men were executed by the rival Jamiyat-e Eslami last week, Monday demanded Islamic trial for top Jamiyat-e leaders.

He blamed Jamiyat-e chief Burhanuddin Rabbani and his northern Panjsher valley commander for the execution of Hezb-e commander Sayyed Jamal, his brother and two other party members in northern Takhar Province on December 21 and ordered a ban on use of Hezb-e territory by Mr. Rabbani's men or convoys.

The incident has triggered unprecedented tension between the two major guerrilla parties. Mr Hekmatyar told a hurriedly called news conference that "the Jamiyat-e should refrain from using the territory controlled by Hezb-e Eslami to avert any untoward incident."

Jamiyat chief Ahmad Shah Mas'ud last week publicly hanged Mr. Jamal and three others after they "confessed" before a commission of 43 religious leaders to their involvement in the July killings of the Jamiyat-e men, according to Mr. Mas'ud's brother Ahmad Zia.

Mr. Hekmatyar, a fundamentalist Muslim, termed the process a "mockery of a trial." He called for convening a joint Islamic tribunal to try the accused under Islamic law and punish "the culprits who ordered the savage killings."

Jamiyat-e Eslami Commander Appeals for Aid

BK3012002689 Hong Kong AFP in English 1956 GMT 29 Dec 89

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 29 (AFP)—A rebel commander has issued an urgent appeal for aid to four snow-bound provinces in northeastern Afghanistan where children have died from cold and severe food shortages.

Commander Aryanpur of the Jamiyat-e Eslami faction called for aid as soon as possible from the mujahidin provisional government based in Pakistan, Moslem countries and the international community, the rebel news agency MIDIA [MEDIA INFORMATION DEPARTMENT OF ISLAMIC AFGHANISTAN] reported Friday [29 December].

The commander said conditions in Badakhshan, Baghlan, Takhar and Konduz were worsening by the day. "A number of infants have died of starvation and cold on their way to nearby provinces for shelter and food," he was quoted as saying. In Badakhshan, a drought this year led to poor harvests and "unprecedented" increases in the prices of basic foods.

MIDIA also reported that rebels launched a heavy rocket attack on the airport at Mazar-e Sharif in northern Afghanistan on Wednesday, the 10th anniversary of the Soviet military intervention in the country. At least 22 Afghan Government soldiers were killed when the two trucks they were riding in collided as they were headed toward the airport terminal. Also on Wednesday, the mujahidin launched 52 rockets on the capital Kabul, killing several dozen people, according to a government spokesman.

Mujahidin Launch Attack on Mazar-e Sharif Airport

BK3012102289 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1000 GMT 30 Dec 89

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say the mujahidin launched a major rocket and missile attack on Mazar-e Sharif airport. According to the news agency MIDIA [MEDIA INFORMATION DEPARTMENT OF ISLAMIC AFGHANISTAN], in the tumult that followed the attack two vehicles carrying military personnel collided with each other killing at least 22 soldiers and injuring many. There are no reports about loss of life and property in the missile attacks.

Mujahidin Attacks in Several Areas Reported

BK0101025690 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 1 Jan 90

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say the mujahidin have launched attacks on various installations of the Kabul regime on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of Soviet intervention in Afghanistan. They attacked Qandahar airport, causing heavy loss of life and property to the Kabul regime forces deployed there. They also attacked military and KHAD positions with long-range missiles. The mujahidin launched rocket and missile attacks on Jalalabad, Samar Kheyl, (Ghatarghai), and Sorkh Rud. The mujahidin also are reported to have repulsed an attack by the Kabul regime forces south of Jalalabad city.

Mujahidin Launch New Operations in Nangarhar

BK0101142790 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 1 Jan 90

[Text] In Afghanistan, the mujahidin are reported to have conducted some fresh operations against the Kabul regime forces, inflicting heavy losses on them.

According to the Afghan news agency MIDIA [MEDIA INFORMATION DEPARTMENT OF ISLAMIC AFGHANISTAN], the mujahidin attacked the regime's military positions at Sarowbi and Jalalabad on Thursday

[28 December], killing 9 soldiers and wounding 30 others; 4 soldiers along with their arms deserted to the mujahidin.

In another operation by the mujahidin along the Jalalabad-Kabul highway at Sarowbi on Tuesday, 11 Kabul regime troops were killed and a similar number of them injured. The mujahidin also (?beat off) a massive offensive by the regime forces against their positions around the besieged city of Jalalabad. Details of losses and casualties are awaited.

'Major Attack' on Jalalabad

BK0201004790 Hong Kong AFP in English 1855 GMT 1 Jan 90

[Text] Kabul, Jan 1 (AFP)—Mujahidin rebels launched a major attack on the eastern Afghan town of Jalalabad on Monday [1 January], bombarding civilian areas with rockets in a sudden step-up of military action.

State television said the government launched a counter-attack with warplanes and artillery, adding that more than 140 mujahidin rebels were killed.

Sources said rebel gunners also attacked the Jalalabad aiport with heavy artillery and rocket fire. The airport is the only lifeline between Kabul and the provincial garrison town in wintertime.

The fighting in Jalalabad and other areas in the frontier province of Nangarhar was continuing, the sources said.

India

Singh To Present 'All' Bofors Files to Lok Sabha

BK2912035889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 29 Dec 89

[Text] All files relating to the Bofors gun deal will be placed in the Lok Sabha today. This was announced by the prime minister, Mr Vishwanath Pratap Singh, in the house last night while replying to the 2-day discussion on the motion of thanks to the president for his address to both houses of Parliament. Later, the house adopted the motion after rejecting all amendments moved by the opposition Congress-I members.

The prime minister pointed out that the previous government did not act on the then attorney general's advice to cancel the contract of Bofors or to sue the company for violation of its agreement not to engage middlemen in the deal. While Mr V.P. Singh was quoting from the attorney general's letter, the leader of the opposition, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, demanded that all files of the prime minister's office relating to the Bofors gun deal should be tabled in the house. Mr V.P. Singh immediately agreed to it, but said that the particular files belonging to the prime minister's office are lying scattered at various places.

During his over-100-minute reply, Mr Singh covered various issues, most of which were raised by Mr Rajiv Gandhi and his party colleagues during the debate. The prime minister announced that there will be a long-term integrated defense strategy taking into consideration India's foreign policy, the internal security situation, and financial aspects. The country's missile plan will go ahead, but the nuclear program will be confined to peaceful use. However, Mr Singh stated that if Pakistan goes in for nuclear weapons, India's policy will be given a second look.

On China, the prime minister said that the scheduled meetings between the two countries will be kept up. Replying to the Congress-I criticism of the ministers having different views on Tibet, Mr Singh categorically stated that the government treats Tibet as an autonomous region of China.

Saying that the government will work for amity among different Tamil groups in Sri Lanka, he questioned what national interest was served by the sacrifice made by the peacekeeping force in Sri Lanka.

Speaking on Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir, the prime minister reiterated that there will be no compromise with terrorists and secessionists. Mr V.P. Singh assured members that most of the measures outlined in the National Front manifesto will be fulfilled by the budget session. He made an on-the-spot announcement that the repealing of the 59th constitution amendment act, which suspended the right to life, will be taken up immediately. The parliamentary affairs minister, Mr P. Upendra, later informed the house that the bill will be introduced today.

On the economic front, the prime minister said there will be a policy departure from the elitist and urban to the rural and agriculture sector. Equity will be the central theme and employment generation the main objective. Demand will be created among workers and farmers so that industrial production can be given a new shape.

Singh Presents Bofors 'Facts'

BK2912161589 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 29 Dec 89

[Text] The government has reiterated its resolve to identify the recipients of commission in the Bofors gun deal and to recover the money.

Placing a set of documents in the Lok Sabha this evening, the prime minister asserted that facts definitely prove that Bofors engaged middlemen and paid large amounts in connection with the deal. Mr Vishwanath Pratap Singh quoted from various sources and made several references before pointing out that the previous government had the authority to get the names of the recipients and recover the amount. The sources included communications between the former prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, and minister of state for defense, Mr Arun Singh; report of the Swedish national audit bureau; opinion of the attorney general; and recommendations of the then chief of army staff, General Sundarji.

Mr V.P. Singh emphasized that as per records, officers and ministers concerned favored action against Bofors for breach of contract. It was also supported by legal opinion. The prime minister categorically stated that the case will be pursued to its logical conclusion and there will be no compromise. He pointed out that inquiries conducted so far have failed to inspire public confidence, including the exercise undertaken by the joint parliamentary committee. The investigative agencies have now been instructed to pursue the case as per law, and the matter will soon be taken up with foreign governments and the Swiss authorities.

Tracing the history of the case as it unfolded since April 1987, Mr V.P. Singh said considerable time has elapsed and those involved got time and opportunity to cover the tracks and build up their alibis. He pointed out that timely action, including a threat of cancellation of the contract, would have yielded positive results. However, the new government has acted quickly; examined facts, views, and records; and debarred Bofors from future contracts. The company, he said, has been put on notice, and the new administration means business. The prime minister cited that even by Bofors' own admission, payments have been made to three companies, including to one code-named account called Lotus. He argued that this strong prima facie evidence indicates the clandestine nature of this irregular payment.

The house witnessed about 75 minutes of pandemonium and procedural wrangles on the material tabled today regarding the Bofors deal. While the opposition Congress-I members insisted that the prime minister had not fulfilled his promise of presenting the files, the treasury benches asserted that the promised documents had already been submitted to the house. Amid heated exchanges, the civil aviation minister, Mr Arif Mohammad Khan, argued that since the government has decided to review the Bofors deal, the Congress-I wants to influence the inquiry. The parliamentary affairs minister, Mr P. Upendra, pointed out that files are never tabled in any legislature. Dissatisfied, the Congress-I and some other opposition members staged a walkout.

Bill Restricts Center's Powers Over Punjab

BK2912125989 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 29 Dec 89

[Text] The Lok Sabha today adopted the 63d Constitution Amendment Bill to drop the special powers acquired by the center in regard to proclamation of emergency in Punjab. The bill, which was introduced in the house in the morning, was passed by division [as heard] with near unanimity. Three hundred and sixty members voted in its favor and (?one) against.

The measure intends to nullify the effect of the Constitution 59th Amendment of 1988, which provided for suspension of several rights, including the right to life in the state under certain circumstances.

The house also adopted an official amendment that the provision will come into force with immediate effect.

Gandhi Assails Government on Policy Issues

BK3012091089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 29 Dec 89

[Text] The Congress-I president, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has accused the present government of not spelling out the basic postulates of the alternative model of government as promised. Addressing the valedictory meeting of the Congress-I party in Parliament in New Delhi today, Mr Gandhi said that the complaint of the leaders of the present government about the government coffers being empty has been proved totally incorrect by the report of the Economic Advisory Council circulated among the members of parliament.

Mr Gandhi regretted that the prime minister, Mr Vishwanath Pratap Singh, had nothing to say on Super 301, Panama, as well as Punjab, which, Mr Gandhi claimed, are matters of vital importance for the country. He also alleged that the present government has been totally ambiguous about the Anandpur Sahab resolution [containing Sikh demands].

Sikh Militants Call Punjab New Year's Day Strike

BK3012074689 Hong Kong AFP in English 0730 GMT 30 Dec 89

[Text] New Delhi, Dec 30 (AFP)—Sikh militants called Saturday [30 December] for a New Year's day general strike in Punjab as part of a campaign to press demands which include a general amnesty for Sikh prisoners, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported.

The strike announced for Monday by the militant All India Sikh Students Federation (AISSF) is the first major challenge in the troubled northern state to the new Indian Government.

AISSF President Manjit Singh said religious and medical services and the press would be exempted from the strike, which would cover all other departments including train and bus transport.

He also told reporters in the Punjab holy city of Amritsar that the strike would be observed in a "peaceful and democratic way," PTI said.

The strike was called to support demands which include the release of all Sikhs jailed in connection with the Sikh movement for a separate homeland and reinstatement of Sikh soldiers who deserted following the June 1984 Indian Army assault on Amritsar's Golden Temple.

The federation also wants the recall of federal paramilitary forces from Punjab and punishment for those involved in the anti-Sikh riots which flared following Premier Indira Gandhi's October 1984 slaying by two Sikh bodyguards.

A large number of Sikhs deserted the army following the assault on the Golden Temple, the holiest Sikh shrine, ordered by Mrs. Gandhi to flush out militants using it as a safe haven.

Her assassination in apparent revenge for the action triggered riots that left more than 2,700 Sikhs dead, mainly in the Indian capital. Sikh militants allege the riots were engineered by members of her Congress (I) party.

Police Set Up Pickets

BK0101081090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 1 Jan 90

[Text] In Punjab, in view of today's bundh [strike] call given by the All India Sikh Students Federation, special police pickets have been set up and patrolling by security forces intensified in the sensitive areas. Security forces have been instructed not to allow any intimidation to businessmen and disrupt normal life in the state. According to an official spokesman, all trains on the branch and main lines in Punjab have been canceled for the day due to the bundh in the state.

Meanwhile, five persons were killed in different incidents in Amritsar District since last night.

Call Receives 'Mixed Response'

BK0101093290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 1 Jan 90

[Text] In Punjab, the bundh [strike] call given by the All India Sikh Students Federation [AISSF] today evoked a mixed response. The bundh has been called in support of their demands for general amnesty in Punjab, reinstatement of Army jawans [soldiers] who left their barracks after the "Blue Star Operation" [1984 storming of Golden Temple], and repeal of alleged black laws, and withdrawal of paramilitary forces from Punjab.

According to an official spokesman in Chandigarh, essential services are functioning as normal. Mail, express, and goods trains are running normally. Train services on some of the branch lines have, however, been canceled by the railway authorities. Bus services are also operating at some places under armed guards. Supply of milk, vegetables, and green fodder from rural areas has been affected at many places.

No untoward incident has so far been reported from anywhere. Authorities have rounded up about 100 activists of the AISSF as a precautionary measure.

The Akali Dal-Mann will stage a dharna [sit-in] in front of the deputy commissioner's office at Faridkot tomorrow. The party took this decision to protest against the disappearance of Mr Jagdev Singh Khudiyan, member of parliament. The Akali Dal-Mann chief, Mr Simranjit Singh Mann, told All India Radio's Ferozepore correspondent at Khudiyan Village that a four-member investigation subcommittee [has been] formed by his party. Mr Mann expressed concern over the disappearance of Mr Khudiyan and the failure of the state government to trace him.

Meanwhile, intensive search is continuing in and along the Rajasthan feeder canal from where the shawl, turban, and shoes of Mr Khudiyan were recovered.

Strike Ends Peacefully

BK0101130390 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 1 Jan 90

[Text] In Punjab, the bundh [strike] called by the All India Sikh Students Federation [AISSF] today passed off peacefully. No untoward incident related to the bundh was reported from anywhere in the state.

The bundh was almost total in the districts of Amritsar, Gurdaspur, and Ferozepore, while it evoked mixed response elsewhere in the state. The bundh call was given by the AISSF in support of their demands for general amnesty in Punjab, reinstatement of Army deserters, repeal of alleged black laws, and withdrawal of paramilitary forces from Punjab.

Our correspondent reports from Amritsar that shops remained closed in the city, but government offices worked. Train services on the branch lines and bus services on the link roads were suspended. The AISSF general secretary told newsmen in Amritsar that the federation is against the killing of innocent people in the state. Our Bhatinda correspondent says that all business establishments and grain markets were closed today, while essential services like hospitals, power, and water supply functioned normally.

Report from Ludhiana says the bundh was partial in the industrial town. In Jullundur City and in almost all the towns in the district, shops observed a near-total hartal [general closure of business] today, while the response was mixed in Hoshiarpur District. According to an official spokesman in Chandigarh, essential services functioned normally, as also the train services.

'Terrorists' Kill 9, Injure 7 in Punjab

BK3112150889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 31 Dec 89

[Text] In Punjab, nine persons, including three members of a family and two home guard volunteers, have been killed and seven injured by terrorists in separate incidents since yesterday evening. The killings took place in Ferozepore, Amritsar, Ludhiana, and Gurdaspur districts.

Meanwhile, adequate security arrangements have been made in view of the bundh [strike] call given by the All-India Sikh Students Federation for tomorrow. District administration all over the state has been instructed to take necessary steps to maintain law and order.

3 'Terrorists' Killed on Pakistan-Kashmir Border

BK3012155889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 30 Dec 89

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, three terrorists were killed and a big cache of sophisticated arms were seized by the Border Security Force [BSF] following an encounter in the Akhrur sector of the India-Pakistan border early this morning. The BSF chief of Jammu frontier said a BSF patrol party sighted four terrorists with a large quantity of arms and ammunition and challenged them. In the encounter that followed, three terrorists were killed, while the fourth managed to escape.

In Srinagar city, one deputy superintendent of police was today fired upon and wounded by some unidentified gunmen in (Rainawadi) area. The police officer was admitted to a local hospital, and his condition is stated to be stable.

2 Explosions in Kashmir Valley; Policeman Killed

BK3112162889 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 31 Dec 89

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, two bomb blasts rocked the valley, causing damage to a residential accommodation and a video parlor. However, no one was injured in the blast.

Meanwhile, the curfew was relaxed for 10 hours in Sopor town today. Police had to resort to a lathi [baton] charge and to firing in the air to disperse some stone-throwing miscreants in the town. Police and paramilitary personnel continued to guard sensitive places in the town. An indefinite curfew was imposed on the town on Friday [29 December] following mob violence.

A police head constable was killed by some unidentified gunmen in Srinagar late last night.

Bomb Explosions Rock Srinagar City; No Casualties

BK0101160290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 1 Jan 90

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, three powerful explosions rocked Srinagar City today, but no casualties were reported.

A powerful bomb exploded in a building housing the office of the state Janata Dal, causing partial damage to the building.

In another explosion, a bomb went off in a bus at Batamalu, damaging the vehicle.

The office complex of the state electricity department at Safakadal was partially damaged by a blast.

Meanwhile, cinema houses in Kashmir Valley closed down their business from today following threats by underground militant organizations.

Indefinite Curfew in Sopor; Army on Standby

BK2912162189 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 29 Dec 89

[Text] Agency reports say an indefinite curfew was imposed in Sopor town of Jammu and Kashmir today, following violent incidents in which several persons were injured. The Army has been asked to stand by.

According to reports reaching Srinagar, trouble started soon after the Friday prayers, where a group of people gathered to protest against police excesses. Police resorted to lathi [baton] charge and tear-gassing to disperse the unruly mob.

Iran

UN Envoy Condemns 'Aggression' Against Panama

LD3012100789 Tehran IRNA in English 0643 GMT 30 Dec 89

[Text] United Nations, Dec 30, IRNA—Iran's representative to the United Nations Zarif [name as received] in an address to the U.N. General Assembly session Friday strongly criticized the United States for its aggression against Panama which he said, "has brought destruction and suffering for the Panamanian people and has taken a great toll of innocent civilian casualties."

The U.S. aggression, he said, "is a vivid illustration of total disregard of this permanent member of the Security Council for the U.N. Charter and the most revered general principles of international law."

The Iranian representative warned the international forum that in violation of its charter, resort to force, "has continued to be an integral part of the foreign policy of the United States, which occupies a permanent seat in the Security Council and always sits in judgement of its own illegalities."

"Iran severely condemns American aggression against Panama and stresses adherence to its policy of fully rejecting bullying, aggression and interference in internal affairs of the others under any pretexts," Zarif said calling for immediate withdrawal of aggressive U.S. forces from Panama.

Ahvaz, Zangan Marchers Protest Panama 'Invasion'

LD2912184589 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 29 Dec 89

[Text] The people of Ahvaz staged a march this morning to exhibit their hatred and revulsion of the Great Satan and to condemn the U.S. military invasion of Panama.

According to the Central News Unit, the marchers—shouting "Death to America," "Death to England," "Death to arrogance," "America causes war and suffering," and "America causes hatred and shame"—condemned the U.S. military invasion of Panama.

People also staged a magnificent march in Zanjan this morning, announcing their hatred and revulsion of the U.S. military invasion of Panama. According to the Central News Unit, the marchers chanted "Death to America." After the march they gathered in the great mosque of Imam Zadeh Ibrahim and issued a resolution demanding the immediate withdrawal of the aggressive U.S. forces from Panama.

According to IRNA, the brave Arab tribes and the Hezbollah people of Susangerd staged a march today condemning the U.S. military invasion of Panama.

Besharati Returns From Syria, Lebanon Talks

LD3112111689 Tehran IRNA in English 0950 GMT 31 Dec 89

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 31, IRNA—Iranian first deputy foreign minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati, who headed a delegation to Syria and Lebanon to end clashes between Amal movement and Hizbollah forces, wound up his trip and returned home early Sunday morning.

During his week-long stay in Syria and Lebanon, Besharati met with Syrian president Hafiz al-Asad and submitted a message from his Iranian counterpart President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Besharati also met with Syrian foreign minister Faruq al-Shar', and leaders of Amal movement and Hizbollah forces.

During these meetings bringing an end to the clashes between the two Muslim groups was stressed.

Discusses Mediation Efforts

LD3112171289 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 31 Dec 89

[Text] Our country's deputy foreign minister, Besharati, this evening spoke to our reporter about the outcome of his trip to Lebanon. Besharati referred to the trip to Lebanon by the Islamic Republic of Iran delegation. Besharati first said that following the outbreak of the bitter dispute between the two Islamic groups of Amal and the Lebanese Hezbollah, the Islamic Republic of Iran, which is the standard-bearer of unity among Muslims, sent a delegation to Lebanon to end the dispute. And through the efforts of our brothers and the coordination, fellow-feeling, and cooperation of the two engaged parties with the Islamic Republic of Iran's delegation, we succeeded on that very 1st night in establishing a cease-fire between the two groups. Today, too, when 6 days have passed since its declaration, there is a reduction in the intensity of the clashes and they have become very limited.

The deputy foreign minister continued by speaking about the recent action of the PLO in mobilizing its military forces in Lebanon:

[Begin Besharati recording] The conditions in the region have changed. In view of the return of Egypt to the fold of Arab countries and the establishment of ties by Arab countries with Cairo—and the last country that normalized its relations with Egypt was Syria—the situation in Lebanon, too, will probably change in some way. [end recording]

Velayati Note Handed to Kuwaiti Foreign Minister

LD3012142489 Tehran IRNA in English 1400 GMT 30 Dec 89]

[Text] Kuwait, Dec. 30, IRNA—The Iranian ambassador here Hoseyn Sadiqi, today handed Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah a message from his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati dealing with the peace talks with the Iraqi aggressor.

Besides the latest development in the peace process, the two also reviewed regional issues and mutual [as received] at the meeting.

Sadiqi called on regional states to cooperate with the Islamic Republic for implementation of U.N. Resolution 598 which seeks to end the Iraqi conflict.

The Kuwaiti foreign minister, whose country had sided with the aggressor during the imposed war, expressed interest in expansion of ties with Islamic Iran, and said that some steps have already been taken in this respect.

Daily Welcomes Syrian-Egyptian Rapprochement

LD0101110990 Tehran IRNA in English 0700 GMT 1 Jan 90

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 1, IRNA—The English daily 'TEHRAN TIMES' in an editorial Monday welcomed Syrian move to mend fences with Egypt, but stressed that struggle against the Zionists and their backers must not be neglected.

Referring to Syrian vice-president 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam's recent visit to Cairo to prepare the grounds for a meeting between Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and his Egyptian counterpart Husni Mubarak, the daily described it as "an important regional development."

"This event certainly has a bearing on the Lebanese and Palestinian issues one way or another," the editorial believed.

Last year's Casablanca Arab summit allowed Egypt to return to the Arab fold after an 11-year absence, the paper noted adding that at that time Syria was under severe regional pressure.

"The developments at the time had seriously damaged the Syrian position," said the paper but added, "with rather clever maneuverings the Syrians managed to extricate themselves from the mesh of all these pressures without really giving any considerable concesssion."

It is in conclusion, "as far as the unity of Muslim countries are concerned one cannot oppose Syrian attempts at mending fences with Egypt," reminding "nothing and no individual political gain should ever divert the attention of Muslim nations from Islam's strategic objectives."

Assembly of Experts Supports Khamene'i

LD3012163389 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 30 Dec 89

[Excerpt] While theologians, clergymen, Friday imams, societies, institutes, and various classes of the people continue declaring support for recent remarks made by His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic revolution, about supporting officials and maintaining unity, in a message to His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i the Assembly of Experts Secretariat declared its support for the esteemed leader. The assembly stressed the importance of maintaining solidarity with the country's officials for the sake of safeguarding the achievements of the revolution. [passage omitted listing a number of other clergymen sending similar messages]

Kerman, Bandar-e 'Abbas Imams Support Khamene'i

LD3012130989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 30 Dec 89

[Text] In continuation of the announcement of support by Friday Imams of the country's provinces for the recent remarks of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, on the need to support the officials of the Islamic Republic, Hojjat ol-Eslam Ja'fari, the representative of the supreme jurisconsult [Vali-e Faqih] and Friday Imam of Kerman, yesterday announced the total support of Kerman's Friday Imams, clergy, and people for the revealing remarks of the Muslims' vice regent [vali-e amr], His Eminance Ayatollah Khamene'i.

Kerman's Friday Imam also stressed the need to support the country's executive officials during the period of reconstruction and the implementation of the economic and cultural plan.

According to IRNA, Hojjat ol-Eslam Ahmadi, the representative of the supreme jurisconsult and Friday imam of Bandar-e 'Abbas, also announced the serious support of Hormozgan's Muslim people for the remarks of the leader of the Islamic Republic and the Muslims' vice regent. He made the remarks in the Bandar-e 'Abbas Friday prayer sermons, stressing the need for safeguarding the unity and cohesiveness of each individual element of the nation.

The Bandar-e 'Abbas Friday Imam said once more that obedience to the supreme jurisconsult is an issue that must be observed. The weakening of the executive officials of the Islamic Republic system prepares the grounds for the ugly intentions of Islam's enemies, he added.

Gilan, Yazd Imams Support Khamene'i Remarks

LD3012131689 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 30 Dec 89

[Excerpts] Continuing the announcements of support by scholars, members of the clergy, Friday and congregational Imams, associations, societies, and various strata of the people for the recent remarks made by His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic Revolution, urging support for the officials of the system and safeguarding unity and cohesion, Hojjat ol-Eslam Ehsanbakhsh, the representative of the supreme jurisconsult [vali-e Faqih] in Gilan Province and Friday Imam of Rasht, sent a cable to the leader of the Islamic Revolution, announcing the decisive support of that province's Friday Imams, people, and clergy for the leader of the world's oppressed. [passage omitted]

In addition, Hojjat ol-Eslam Sadduqi, the representative of the supreme jurisconsult and Friday Imam of Yazd, mentioned the complete obedience of that province's people for the supreme jirisconsult and stressed that any remarks on the domestic or foreign policy of the country should be based on obedience to the principle religious rule [velayat]. With their complete confidence in and obedience to the great rank of the leadership, the people also condemn any irresponsible announcement of opinion with results in the weakening of the system. [passage omitted]

Bushehr, Gorgan Friday Imams Support Khamene'i

NC3112073789 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 31 Dec 89

[Text] In response to the exhortations of the eminent leader, especially with regard to support for the country's executive officials and the preservation of unity and solidarity, Hojjat ol-Eslam Fazel Ferdowsi, the representative of the Vali-ye Faqih and the Friday imam of Bushehr, sent a telegram to His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i stressing the need to support the country's officials.

His telegram stated: Following your important and constructive remarks regarding international politics and support for officials, I, along with the revered Friday imams, eminent clergymen, and martyr-nurturing people of Bushehr Province, declare their support for the officials of the system in emulating the example of the eminent leader and consider obedience to his timely and fatherly directives as our duty. We consider any discord or difference within the Islamic society as detrimental to the Islamic Republic of Iran's system.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Nur-Mofidi, the Friday imam of Gorgan and Dasht, also sent a telegram to the guardian of the Muslims' cause [vali-ye amr], His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, pledging unstinting support to the Vali-ye Faqih and the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran's system.

Groups Support Khamene'i Call for Unity

LD0101182390 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 1 Jan 90

[Text] Extensive support continues to be expressed by the 'ulema, clergymen, Friday prayer and congregation leaders, known personalities, institutions, organizations, and different strata of the population for the guidelines of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, over the need to preserve unity and support officials of the Islamic Republic system.

The representatives of the supreme jurisconsult in the Kordestan region and the representative of the supreme jurisconsult in the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps; the ideological-political organization of the Islamic Republic's Gendarmerie; the representative of the supreme jurisconsult and the Friday prayers leader of Khomeyn; the Friday prayers leaders of Semnan, Sanandaj, and Sari; the House of Workers of the Islamic Republic of Iran; students who are children of the martyrs and selfless devot es [disabled] of the Islamic revolution; the office for the despatch of Islamic theology lecturers and representatives of Islamic studies of universities; the Literacy Movement's central headquarters; the Preachers Association of Tehran; the university staff of Esfahan; and the Association of Islamic Societies of the Bazaar and Guilds of Tehran, in messages, circulars, and telegrams sent separately to his eminence, Ayatollah Khamene'i, have declared their categorical support for the elucidating remarks made by the leader, underlining their support for the executive officials of the system and the preservation of unity and solidarity in order to safeguard the achievements of the Islamic revolution.

Daily Hails Khamene'i Remarks on Unity

LD0201090190 Tehran IRNA in English 0820 GMT 2 Jan 90

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 2 IRNA—The Persian daily 'ABRAR' in an editorial Monday hailed the Islamic revolution's leader Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i for his recent remaks on the need for unity and solidarity.

The editorial said that the remarks were reminder of the late leader Imam Khomeyni's guidelines throughout the ten year history of the Islamic revolution. "Whenever Imam Khomeyni felt that certain discrepancies and discussion in the society would encourage the enemies of the revolution to take advantage of the situation for inflicting blows on the system, he would have timely acted and called on the public to preserve their unity," said the paper.

The daily said that the nation continues to enjoy the leadership's guidelines, stressing that this is the key to solidarity of a nation who through its struggle forced the strongest world power to bow.

It warned foreign enemies and their domestic agents to avoid fostering the idea of sowing discord among the Iranians and weakening the solidarity of the nation by employing propaganda tricks.

By supporting the executive authorities, the revolution's leader further encouraged the government to continue on its determined path, concluded ABRAR.

Musawi-Ardabili 29 December Friday Sermon

LD2912180989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1130 GMT 29 Dec 89

[Frdiday prayers sermon by Ayatollah Musawi-Ardabili at Tehran University on 29 December—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [Koranic passage omitted]

Last week we witnessed various events, none of which conformed with any of our assessments and normal opinions, events which affected the entire world on a very large scale—the events in Eastern Europe, the Warsaw Pact, Germany, Lebanon, Afghanistan, and lastly Panama, Romania and so on. We heard all these events through the media. What is this? Why is the world in such a tumultuous state? Why is there so much corruption in the world? Where is the root of all this corruption? Does it pour down from the sky? Does it grow in the earth? Does it emanate from human hearts? Is it the frontiers that play the principal role? Is it rooted in human activities? [Koranic passage omitted]

This situation is not good. It is evil. It is bad. Events occur in which one does not know whether to curse the murderer, the murdered, or both. How do you judge the situation in Panama? Events occur in which one cannot identify the aggressor, the oppressor, or the oppressed. One does not know whether to say: Praise be to God, or may God forbid. Why is this? Why has the world taken such a turn? [Koranic passage on roots of evil omitted]

On the one hand they say: You murderous United States, why do you wage a military attack? This is a shameful act, and you should be ashamed. On the other they say: Do you know that the U.S. has waged an attack in order to remove an international smuggler, a narcotics agent? They repeat this so many times it makes one wonder. [Koranic verse and remarks on subjectivity of concept of good and evil omitted]

Assessments became distorted. Equations became uneven. Miscalculations were made. The reason is that we have become distant from God. We have become distant from logic. We are no longer inspired by justice. We do not rationalize good and evil. I am not saying that the world is such today, and it was not such yesterday. The battle between good and evil and between justice and injustice has always existed. [Koranic citation omitted].

It was the same in the past. [Passage omitted on Muhammad's efforts to eliminate evil, followed by another passage in tribute to Muhammad's daughter]

And now that little message. I feel now that I have been fortunate to talk here; it is a duty for me to mention it.

Brothers, sisters, whoever you might be, whatever you might be, and whereever you might be, you should know that we are in a difficult situation. We are in hard times. We have shouldered the burden of a long war. We lost youths by hundreds and thousands, the youth that one stroke of their hair valued as much as a whole world [as heard]. Their blood is still boiling. Their families are still mourning their deaths. [He begins to cry] Their pictures remain in the hearts of their wives, their mothers, and their children—or in their heads.

They are all waiting to see how we support this [spilt] blood. That is also a bad world. The world is bad, and the East and the West, despite all their malice, are resolving their differences and put their hands together to eliminate the oppressed and to cut the throat of the meek with a sharper knife and with more effective and stronger hands.

It is 10 years, 11 years for us—if you count the time that led to it [the revolution], then more—God has asked us and we are standing against them [West and East], and we have welcomed any calamity which has been brought to us to safeguard the principles of our revolution, follow our way, and continue the path of the imam.

It is the duty of each of us, now that the enemy is united, now that they are all on one side, every day they have a conspiracy, every day they have a different color, we should be quite discerning about where the enemies are going to attack us.

You know, I do not need to tell you, but: Remind them, because reminding is useful to the believers [Koranic verse]. One of the very important issues at this historic juncture, is that we safeguard our cohesion, solidarity, cooperation, and unity and be together. If we are together, God's hand is with us. [Crowd chants "God is great; Death to America"]

Brothers and sisters, in my remarks, I do not say not to criticize each other; I do not say not to point to each other's mistakes; I do not say that we should not mention each other's mistakes. Pointing to mistakes and criticizing, when constructive, is necessary in all conditions. As far as I remember, I have never defended the side that stands against this, in particular after the revolution.

I have always said that mistakes, wrongdoing, criticism, and faults should be mentioned, and to mention them for correction is something else.

We might ourselves do something that gives the enemy a pretext. Presently I am in Qom. Praying for you. I am a servant of the system. But if I do not serve in one post, I serve in another. There is no difference. Man should serve the system, the religion, and Islam. What is important for us is to safeguard principles. I beseach Almighty God to give us all that opportunity. [passage omitted continuing prayers asking that people be given spirit to safeguard revolution]

President Sends New Year Message to Christians

LD3112095389 Tehran IRNA in English 0858 GMT 31 Dec 89

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 31, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani here Sunday sent a message of congratulation to the world Christians and the Iranian Christians in particular on the occasion of the new year.

In his message the president stressed that followers of all divine religions and the Christians in particular are highly respected in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

He added that the Christ (PBUH) [Peace be upon Him] was assigned by the almighty as the savior of mankind, supporter of the oppressed and enemy of the oppressors.

Further in his message the president said that at present all sublime teachings of the Christ (PBUH) and his guidelines are being distorted and have become the target of various plots and poisonous cultural attacks and propaganda of the satantic elements.

Millions of Christians throughout the world are suffering from poverty, discrimination and exploitation of the oppressive powers, by those who unfortunately call themselves follower of this great prophet, said the message.

The so-called supporters of democracy are trying to contain and deviate the revolutionary moves and silence with all possible means and cry which calls for justice and freedom.

The message added that with the iron walls of atheism and communism collapsing one after another, and with the East and the West having experienced bitter outcome of turning away from human goals, the only solution left is the lofty guidances of the divine religions. Only by resorting to these sublime teachings the people will find the enternal prosperity and happiness and will not allow one materialist world view be replaced by another one, concluded the message.